



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Record of Progress

The record of the 96th Congress leaves a positive imprint on the state of our nation — with accomplishments in the three major domestic areas of energy, the economy, and defense.

Passage of the most far-reaching energy bills in the history of this country has put America on the road to energy independence.

The capstone of the energy package was creation of an independent synthetic fuels corporation to finance the commercial development of alternative energy sources.

On the economic front, Congress passed myriad bills to free businesses from unnecessary governmental restraints, including deregulation of the trucking, railroad, and banking industries. The Small Business Development Act of 1980, along with several other small business measures, could help to revive the economic lifeblood of this country.

Also, Congress demon-

strated its responsiveness to the economy by drafting a balanced budget last spring, but this year's recession pushed the budget into the red.

In the area of defense, Congress put the country back on the track of building and improving its defense strength, instead of maintaining the status quo.

Congress has provided for a 3 percent real growth in the nation's defense budget, as well as for the modernization of NATO equipment, improvements to the rapid deployment force, and development of the MX and cruise missiles.

Military pay and benefits also were upgraded, and registration for the Selective Service was re-instated.

Although this brief summary has been devoted to highlights of domestic legislation, numerous achievements were made in other fields. Normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China, for example, was a necessary step for our country to take in pursuit of international stability.



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Democracy At Work

The orderly transition of power that is underway in our country illustrates the strength of our democratic form of government.

Although Americans are accustomed to this periodic changing of the guard when a new President assumes office, in many nations the ascension of a new leader frequently is the result of revolution, military take-over, or death of the chief executive.

The observation made by Alexis de Tocqueville in his *Democracy in America* 145 years ago is still largely true of much of the world: "Few of the nations of Europe could escape the calamities of anarchy or of conquest every time they might have to elect a new sovereign."

In the United States, there is no need for martial law or military might to transfer the reigns of power. The voters freely choose the individual to head our government, and he takes control peacefully and with decorum.

For the most part, tradition has dictated the course of events during this transfer of authority. In the past two decades, custom has de-

manded cooperation between the outgoing and incoming administrations for a smooth shift in the control of government.

In 1964, Congress passed the Presidential Transition Act which authorizes federal funds to cover expenses for the transition.

Despite this continuity of government, some observers believe the two-and-a-half-month delay between the election of a President and his inauguration is too long. Although the outgoing administration retains full authority to govern, some decisions invariably are pushed aside until the new administration takes office.

In earlier years, however, the new President did not assume office until March 4. Ratification of the Twentieth Amendment in 1933 shifted the inaugural date to January 20.

This transition period is quiet testimony to the success of our system of government. There is no gunfire; there is no revolution; there are no executions.

As de Tocqueville observed, "the election of the President is a cause of agitation, but not of ruin."



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Grain Embargo Proves Effective

The American grain embargo imposed against the Soviet Union last year for its brutal invasion of Afghanistan has been an effective policy tool for the United States, and should be maintained.

The embargo was put into effect by President Carter in January 1980 as one of several American responses to the Soviet attack, which not only threatens world peace, but also endangers U.S. foreign policy interests.

It is clear that this ban on agricultural sales has taken its toll on the Soviet Union.

President Brezhnev recently admitted that his country faces a severe agricultural crisis over the next five years. Effects of the embargo were heightened this year due to the Soviet Union's own crop losses from bad weather, resulting in large shortages of meat and bread in some major cities.

Although American farmers originally feared the loss of a major market for selling their harvests, the trade was shifted to many other countries, particularly China, Taiwan, Japan, and

Mexico. In fact, China recently signed a major grain sales agreement with the United States for the next four years.

Also, grain prices in the United States today are higher than last year, indicating a lack of surpluses on the American market.

Because world grain supplies are expected to be lower than normal this year, removal of the embargo could create excessive demand for grain, pushing its price upward, and worsening inflation.

The United States cannot conduct "business as usual" as long as the Soviet Union occupies an independent nation, murdering and brutalizing its citizens.

Continuation of the embargo not only demonstrates American condemnation of the Soviet invasion, but it also serves as a warning against further acts of aggression.

Curtailement of agricultural exports to the Soviet Union has had a significant and effective impact, and is a critical element of U.S. foreign policy. President Reagan would be well-advised to keep the embargo in force.



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Congressional Watchdog

Like the housewife who is always trying to stretch the family budget, the U.S. Congress is aided by an agency that constantly searches for ways to stretch tax dollars by making federal government operations more efficient and effective.

This agency, the General Accounting Office (GAO), saved an estimated \$2.6 billion in government expenses in 1979 through recommendations and audits of various government programs and agencies.

The GAO was created in 1921 as an arm of the Congress, and over the years, it has strengthened Congressional control over the public purse. It assists the Congress in its legislative and oversight responsibilities; audits and evaluates federal programs and departments; and provides a wide range of legal services, accounting, and claims settlement work.

Most of the savings identified by the GAO follow enactment of recommendations made to governmental agencies. The former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, for instance, recovered nearly \$18 million in overpayments to recipients of Medicaid and Aid to Families with Dependent Children following a GAO investigation.

In 1979, the GAO reported the collection of more than \$10.5 million in debts that government agencies

had been unable to collect.

In its attempt to weed out fraud, abuse, or waste in any government department or agency, the GAO created a special task force for the prevention of fraud. This task force operates a toll-free nationwide hotline (800-424-5454) for citizens to provide information.

The GAO also has recommended the simplification of our federal government tax forms, believing that it would aid both taxpayers and the Treasury Department. Following its report in 1978, Congress passed legislation which requires the Treasury Department to report this year on steps which can be taken to simplify the tax forms and our tax laws.

In response to a request of mine, the GAO last year issued a report on the use of federal funds to recruit foreign workers to aid in West Virginia's apple harvests. The report provided the U.S. Department of Labor with recommendations on how to develop procedures to ensure that qualified workers are recruited for the jobs.

The tax dollars saved through the activities of the GAO demonstrate the merit of a Congressional watchdog. It is hoped that the GAO will continue to point the way to the weeding out of waste and the fostering of efficiency in government programs.



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The Prospects for Coal

There are encouraging signs from the new Reagan Administration that future energy policies will allow coal, our nation's most abundant fuel, to shoulder more of our country's energy load.

Although President Reagan, during the campaign, talked of dismantling the Department of Energy and abandoning the government's participation in the development of synthetic fuels, he apparently is rethinking these positions.

The Department of Energy may need some restructuring, but it has a critical role to play in pursuing a sound energy policy for our country, which includes the increased use of coal.

I am encouraged that the new Energy Secretary, former South Carolina Gov. James B. Edwards, described himself as "coal oriented" at a recent meeting with me in my office. He also stated his support for the increased production of coal and for making improvements in our transportation network that would facilitate our coal exports.

Also, it is imperative that

the new administration support the work of the newly-created Synthetic Fuels Corporation, which will help finance the development of commercial-sized plants for the conversion of coal and oil shale to synthetic oil and gas.

It was my amendment which appropriated \$20 billion for the corporation and the energy department to make loan and price guarantees, and other incentives, for the development of man-made liquid fuels.

Coal is the raw resource needed for many of the available technologies for producing these alternative fuels. This program is essential to a sound national energy policy and should be utilized to the fullest extent possible.

The increased use of coal is not only important to West Virginia — where it will spur the economy and generate jobs—but it is also vitally important to the energy security of our country.

I am hopeful that the new Administration and the new 97th Congress will pursue policies recognizing coal's potential.



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A Precautionary Step

In view of the perilous times in which we live, our country must be able to buttress its defense strength with a military that can be mobilized quickly to respond to aggression.

The re-institution of military registration last year advances our state of preparedness. Under the program, initiated by former President Carter, the Selective Service System held two registration periods for men aged 18, 19, and 20.

There was a 94.5 percent response to the first registration period, and eligible men continued to fill out the required forms after the official registration period ended. A system of continuous registration is now in effect, whereby every young man is required to register within 30 days after reaching his 18th birthday.

Cancellation of this program by the new Reagan Administration would be a mistake.

It would send a potentially-damaging signal to allies and adversaries alike. It would create the impression that our commitment to strengthening our military preparedness and defense capabilities is empty rhetoric.

Registration enhances our military preparedness by

providing a pool of backup manpower which could save crucial days in the event of a mobilization.

It is, of course, only a segment of our overall defense posture.

The President and the Congress must work together to insure that every dollar spent on defense is utilized to the fullest, providing our nation with qualified and well-trained troops, as well as sophisticated and effective equipment.

Last year, Congress enacted a \$160 billion defense budget, which included an 11.7 percent pay raise for military personnel and bonuses for trained specialists. The Defense Department is reviewing possibilities for developing a new manned bomber, an issue that will be closely scrutinized by Congress this session.

It is paramount that our nation take all the necessary precautions to maintain an effective and strong national defense. Military registration is one of these steps.

This nation must be in a state of readiness—at all times—to answer any aggressive activity against us or an ally. America cannot afford to be caught off guard.



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Economic Decisions of 1981

The most urgent task facing the Congress this year is the development of policies which will stimulate national economic growth, while whittling away at inflation.

It is imperative, however, that the Congress proceed carefully and cautiously.

There is no quick-fix solution or simple answer that will put our economic house in order. Each step of any economic package must be carefully scrutinized to insure that it will alleviate economic hardships, instead of aggravating them.

Although there is general agreement that budget cuts must be made, it will be difficult to determine which federal programs can best afford them. The Congress made significant progress in drafting a balanced budget last year, but large increases in social costs resulting from the recession pushed it off course.

In addition, the decision to reduce taxes must be weighed carefully. This country cannot afford a consumption-oriented tax cut that will fuel inflation.

Unfortunately, the Kemp-Roth proposal promoted by

President Reagan takes this route. It would reduce individual taxes by 10 percent each of the next three years.

Although this approach may sound appealing at first glance, it would only serve to pump additional money into the economy through consumer spending, thus fostering the inflationary spiral.

The Kemp-Roth proposal also is inequitable. Because it calls for an across-the-board percentage reduction in taxes, the wealthy would receive a far greater tax break than the average wage-earner.

A wiser course to pursue would be a productivity-oriented tax cut package that will encourage the business sector to expand, putting workers back on their jobs. An increase in our country's productivity would help stem inflation, benefiting the entire population instead of only a small sector.

The economic decisions of 1981 will not come easily. But they must be made if Congress wants to meet its objectives of furthering economic growth and curbing inflation.



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American Ingenuity

Innovation in the marketplace is an important contributor to national economic growth and should be rewarded.

It was this philosophy that led to our country's first patent law in 1793, authorizing a 17-year protection period to an inventor for his creation.

Unfortunately, the growth of regulatory machinery which delays the introduction of a new product or process into the marketplace has, all too often, cut the length of the patent life in half.

To restore the original intent of the patent law, I have co-sponsored legislation this session of Congress which would replace, up to seven years, the time lost on patent life during the regulatory review process.

Although a regulatory process is necessary for the testing of new products to ensure that they are safe for public use, this review period has become cumbersome and dilatory. The average delay encountered in the introduction of a new drug onto the market illustrates how much time can be lost.

In 1962, for example, it took approximately two years and \$6 million to bring a new medicine from

the laboratory to the marketplace.

It now takes, on the average, about seven to 10 years and about \$70 million to complete the required testing period.

Thus, it is not uncommon for a drug product to have lost up to one-half of its patent life without having been marketed.

Similarly, the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that the patent life for chemical products has been reduced by five years.

This adverse impact upon innovation has resulted in fewer new and better products being introduced to the American consumer.

From 1955 through 1962, on the average, 46 new drugs were introduced annually in the United States. Today, on the average, only 17 new drugs are introduced each year, representing a decline of 63 percent.

The introduction of new products and processes into our economy stimulates business investment, contributing to economic growth.

Explaining the first patent law, Thomas Jefferson said, "ingenuity should receive a liberal encouragement." Because these words remain valid today, the effectiveness of the American patent should be restored.



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Budget Cutting

Spending reductions are inevitable this year as Congress and the Administration work toward balancing the federal budget and restoring vitality to our national economy.

Federal programs that have proved effective in promoting economic development and putting people back to work, however, should not be abolished arbitrarily.

Two federal agencies that have contributed greatly to West Virginia's economic, commercial, and industrial bases, for instance, are the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Cancellation of these two programs, both of which work to improve our productivity, would be counterproductive.

The ARC, created in 1965 to promote the economic development of the entire Appalachian region, has had a hand in building highways, offering technical assistance to private enterprise, improving health care, building educational centers, and assisting in housing development.

ARC funds also have assisted many West Virginia communities in financing water and sewer systems improvement projects, such as the Williamson water system in Mingo County, and the Princeton sewer system in Mercer County.

In addition, the completion of more than 1,500

miles of the Appalachian Development Highway System has contributed to the creation of thousands of jobs in Appalachia.

Likewise, the EDA has been the margin of difference in the survival or demise of certain West Virginia companies and industrial plants.

This agency has contributed to the building of industrial parks in West Virginia, such as those in Marlinton, Charles Town, and Fairmont.

It provided a loan guarantee for Anchor Hocking to purchase and upgrade an industrial plant in Clarksburg, saving more than 1,000 jobs, and similarly assisted Sterling Faucett's purchase of a brass works plant in Morgantown, which kept the plant in productive use, instead of allowing it to close.

The EDA also assisted in the development of water systems and urban revitalization projects in the state, as well as providing a \$100 million loan guarantee to Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, that saved several thousand jobs in the northern panhandle.

Budget cutting obviously is necessary this year as Congress and the Administration attempt to put our nation's economic house in order. It would be shortsighted, however, to eliminate programs that nourish the economic foundations of our states.



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The Communist Threat

The United States must constantly be on guard against the communist threat, which still exists in many parts of the world.

A third of the world's population is under communist rule — approximately 1.5 billion people in 17 countries. The dominant communist country is the Soviet Union, and in our own western hemisphere, Cuba imposes the communist doctrine on nearly 10 million people.

Unfortunately, these communist regimes continue to strive for world expansionism, looking for opportunities in many trouble spots around the globe.

The most blatant takeover in recent history is the Soviet Union's ruthless invasion of Afghanistan that began more than a year ago. The Soviets continue to occupy Afghanistan with more than 85,000 troops to keep it under communist domination.

Also, thousands of Cubans have been reported in numerous African countries where political instability leaves them open to communist aggression. And in Central America, there are many efforts by Marxist and leftist forces to take control.

Probably the most troubled country in that region today is El Salvador, where the civilian/military junta

in power is being challenged by both rightist military forces and leftist guerrillas.

It is in the interests of the United States that neither El Salvador, nor other politically-troubled nations of the western hemisphere, become controlled by regimes that have their allegiances to Moscow or Havana.

But the United States needs to weigh its options carefully. It would be in everyone's best interests if a political solution rather than a military solution could be achieved.

Nevertheless, the United States must continue to take steps to build its defense strength, while keeping a watchful eye on potential trouble spots of the world. It must convey to allies and to potential adversaries that our nation has the defense capabilities to carry out our foreign policy goals.

In this vein, I support President Reagan's toughened stance against the Soviet Union, and I favor continuation of the American grain embargo imposed against the Soviets as an appropriate response to their brutality in Afghanistan.

In this dangerous decade of the 1980's, the United States must keep a wary vigilance around the globe.



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Victims of Black Lung

Our nation's coal miners sacrifice their health and shorten their life spans to provide our country with the coal it needs to generate electricity, power industrial plants, and manufacture steel.

Although significant strides have been made in improving the safety and health conditions of our coal mines, thousands of our miners have contracted pneumoconiosis, the dreaded "black lung" disease caused by the inhalation of coal dust.

For many victims of black lung, something as natural as breathing becomes the most difficult chore each day.

I helped to enact the nation's first black lung law in 1969 which provided disability payments to miners, or families of miners, who have been afflicted by this disease.

West Virginia, which is second only to Pennsylvania in the number of claimants who have applied and who are receiving black lung benefits, has about 86,000 beneficiaries under the black lung program.

President Reagan, who is recommending substantial spending cuts in the federal budget, may propose changes in the black lung

program, which conceivably could have severe consequences for these beneficiaries.

Full details of the President's package, however, have not yet been presented to Congress. Any changes in this vitally-important program cannot be evaluated—or acted upon—until the specifics are known and it can be determined how these changes will affect the beneficiaries.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average monthly benefit paid to an individual claimant under the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund during the past fiscal year was \$254. A claimant with two dependents received an average monthly benefit of \$444.

It would be difficult to ask the scores of thousands of black lung beneficiaries to accept a proposal that would reduce these benefits.

The Congress and the President must work together in forging a new economic blueprint for this country. Only through cooperation and consultation can the black lung program be improved and strengthened so that it will serve the many coal miners whose work is essential to our nation's energy production.



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Taking The Wrong Path

Our national energy policy, developed over the past seven years to put America on the path of energy independence, is endangered by Administration proposals that would dismantle research, conservation, and emergency preparedness programs.

The proposed budget for the Department of Energy, for instance, calls for a sharp reduction in expenditures for fossil energy research, or converting coal to synthetic fuels. The only avenue left for proposed synfuels demonstration plants, which will lay the technological groundwork for manufacturing liquid fuels, would be the Synthetic Fuels Corporation.

The entire alcohol fuels and biomass energy program—which includes the conversion of grain, wood, coal, and solid waste into energy—would be eliminated.

Funds earmarked for solar energy research would be halved.

And, almost every energy conservation project and program would be eliminated. Standby oil-allocation plans and gasoline-ra-

tioning plans—for use in the event of an emergency—would be withdrawn.

The Administration apparently expects higher energy prices to spur increased oil-drilling activity in the United States. Its decision to lift all price controls from domestically-produced oil on January 28 has pushed up the price of gasoline and home heating oil, but it will not produce additional petroleum reserves.

Under the phased decontrol of oil prices that already had been in effect, drilling activity was at a peak. Numerous studies can be cited which conclude that production of conventional oil in the United States is declining and will continue to decline.

Because our oil supplies are being depleted, it is imperative that our country search for new energy sources to replace our dependence on foreign oil.

The dismantling of our national energy policy, piece by piece, will leave the United States dangerously vulnerable to a cutoff of oil from the Persian Gulf.



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America Behind Locked Doors?

A blanket of fear appears to be enveloping our nation as more and more Americans become victims of violent crime.

It is a sad fact that an average of 400 Americans are murdered each week.

According to the FBI's crime clock, one violent crime—such as murder, forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault—occurs every 27 seconds. One property crime—burglary, larceny/theft, or motor vehicle theft—is committed every three seconds.

It is to West Virginia's credit that our state, according to the FBI, has the lowest crime index total per 100,000 inhabitants of all 50 states.

But many communities in the United States—such as Atlanta, which is plagued by the murders of more than 20 black children—have growing numbers of citizens who daily live in fear of being assaulted, robbed, knifed, or even killed.

Warren Burger, Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, recently spoke of this "reign of terror in American cities," and called for measures that would deter criminals, such as "swift arrest, prompt trial, certain penalty, and—at some point—finality of judgment."

A task force has been appointed by U.S. Attor-

ney General William Smith to search for ways to curb this wave of violent crime. It is imperative to our national sense of security that criminals be taken off the streets.

It is hoped that the task force will consider abolition of parole, in certain instances, to ensure certainty of punishment; mandatory sentencing for using a gun in the course of a crime; and establishment of a unified sentencing system to reduce the disparities that now exist.

Other elements of our criminal justice system also ought to be reviewed. These include the heavy caseloads that overburden the prosecutors, the effect of plea-bargaining tactics, and standards set for allowing release of defendants on bail.

An especially tough stance should be taken against recidivists—those who repeatedly commit crimes. And preventive measures need to be developed for handling juvenile offenders, who are accounting for a larger and larger segment of all violent crimes committed.

Law-abiding Americans should not be held hostage to the criminals—afraid to venture out at night, secure only behind the locked doors and bolted windows of their homes. That is not the Land of the Free.



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Role of the Government

Although an anti-government mood appears to have taken hold in our country, we should not lose sight of the legitimate functions the federal government is duty-bound to provide to the people of our nation.

I agree that government spending needs to be reduced.

I agree that bureaucratic red tape needs to be shorn.

In accomplishing these goals, however, we need to be careful not to abdicate the legitimate and constitutional functions of our government.

The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution sets forth the purpose of our government—"to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty. . . ."

In other words, the federal government is duty-bound to provide our country with certain services that individuals, by themselves, cannot do.

The government is duty-bound to "establish justice." This means there is a proper role for the government to act as arbiter when different segments of society clash. In this vein, govern-

ment regulates monopolies, and establishes unfair trade and labor practices.

The government is duty-bound to "insure domestic tranquility." The people are entitled to a stable environment, which is achieved through law enforcement, police protection, and the judicial system.

The government is duty-bound to "provide for the common defense." This not only means maintaining military manpower and equipment, but it also applies to the formulation and enactment of a national energy policy that will eliminate our Achilles' heel of dependence on foreign oil.

The government is duty-bound to "promote the general welfare." The government must help the citizens who cannot help themselves—the elderly, the disabled, the poor. The enactment of health and safety standards also pursues this goal.

Because the role of the federal government is a massive one, it often is difficult to reach a consensus on the particulars of each of its functions. But the government's constitutional and legitimate role in our society must never be cast aside.



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Fairness in the Budget

The federal budget blueprint recently passed by the U.S. Senate adheres to President Reagan's goal of curbing government spending, but unfortunately, leaves some holes in the Administration's safety net.

Because I support the Administration's goals of reduced government spending and a balanced federal budget, I voted for the resolution containing these budget guidelines.

In an attempt to restore equity and fairness to the proposed budget cuts, however, I co-sponsored several amendments to restore funding in certain programs, such as the following:

I supported attempts to restore funding to provide health care for veterans;

I supported attempts to restore funding to provide minimum Social Security benefits to the elderly;

I supported attempts to restore funding to provide loans to college students from middle-income families; and

I supported attempts to restore funding to synthetic fuels programs so that our country would not be vulnerable to a cut-off in supplies of foreign oil.

I supported these amendments because I believe the voters last November—who voted to cut federal spending—did not vote for less veterans' health care, less energy independence, the elimination of minimum Social Security benefits, or for

less access to institutions for higher learning.

Because these amendments included offsetting and new savings in the budget, adoption of all of them would have reduced further the spending cuts proposed by the Administration by \$1.3 billion.

There is no doubt that government spending needs to be curbed. The spending cuts enacted by Congress, however, should:

—promote economic growth and fight inflation;

—provide short-term savings that will not result in long-term costs;

—be consistent with other major national priorities, such as linking the goal of energy independence with our national defense; and

—be fair and equitable so that no single group bears a disproportionate share of the burden.

I support efforts to balance the federal budget and to reduce government spending. But some proposed cuts would constitute false economy, such as the cuts in mass transit, Farmers Home Administration, Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

I hope that as the budget cycle unfolds, a better and fairer balance can be achieved in federal spending, so as to secure both a balanced budget and continued economic growth.



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Communist Contradictions

The uprising of 10 million industrial workers in Poland poses a threat to the fundamental principle underlying communist doctrine, and creates a dilemma for the Soviet Union.

The workers — in an attempt to improve their quality of life — have banded together to form the Solidarity union to win a greater voice in controlling their own destinies.

The industrial workers — the proletariat — theoretically are the foundation upon which a truly communist state is built. Communist ideology, as set forth by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the *Communist Manifesto*, was to lead to a dictatorship of the proletariat, culminating in a classless society.

That has not been the case, however, in Poland or in any of the communist bloc nations.

Political and military loyalists to the Communist Party line in these countries have become a communist elite — enjoying a standard of living far beyond the reach of the workers in their countries.

But the workers — the backbone of any country — have found life wanting. Polish workers must spend numerous hours in food lines to obtain the barest of necessities. Few consumer goods are within their financial reach.

By contrast, the workers in the West have evolved into a major political and economic force in the system of private enterprise. Through the trade-union movement, Western laborers have increased their purchasing power and, with it, access to a higher standard of living and a wide variety of consumer goods.

The banding together of workers in Poland to challenge the communist system — where the decisions are placed in the hands of the state — puts the Soviet Union in an awkward spot.

In the past, the Soviet Union has not hesitated to resort to military force to quell any uprisings.

In 1956, the Soviets invaded Hungary to suppress a revolt of intellectuals and students.

In 1968, Soviet tanks rolled into Czechoslovakia to crush the liberalization of the "Prague spring."

But the Polish challenge is unique. It is one thing to turn guns on students and intellectuals. It is another to turn guns on the worker, the foundation of the communist state.

It is hoped that this time, no tanks will roll and no military troops will march, but that the Soviets will allow a political solution to evolve. It would be in the best interests of the Polish people and of the future of world peace, as well.



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Strengthening Our Air Defenses

To keep our nation's defense capabilities at top strength, it is imperative that our country begin production of a new highly-sophisticated manned bomber that could pierce enemy air defenses undetected.

There are three basic components of our strategic defense system—land-based missiles, sea-launched missiles and manned bombers. For maximum defense, each of these systems must be capable of surviving a first-strike attack by the Soviet Union and retaliating against enemy targets.

Our country's current fleet of B-52 bombers is aging, and it is projected that these aircraft will be rendered incapable of penetrating Soviet air defenses within 10 years.

Although the Congress has voted for the development of a new bomber to upgrade our defense strength, no final decision has been made as to whether to produce the B-1 bomber or the "stealth" aircraft.

Little is publicly known about the "stealth" bomber, but it is designed to carry highly-sophisticated electronics equipment that will allow it to elude Soviet air defense systems that include radar, missiles, and interceptor aircraft.

Most military experts believe, however, that by the time the B-1 bomber could be put into operation, it would be no more capable of

penetrating Soviet air defenses than would the B-52 aircraft, which is being upgraded to carry and launch cruise missiles.

Production of a B-1 bomber fleet probably would be so costly today that it would force deferral of the production of the "stealth" aircraft, because to proceed with both projects would not be feasible economically.

This would be nearsighted. Our aim should be the production of a bomber that will be capable of penetrating air defense systems well into the next century.

Because long-range planning is essential to our country's defense posture, I believe the "stealth" aircraft should be put into production as soon as possible.

There is little disagreement that an effective manned bomber is a necessary ingredient of our defense force. The bomber has more flexibility than the land or sea-based missiles. Also, it can be launched and recalled, retargeted in flight, and is under the control of both our central commanders and highly-trained crews.

We cannot allow our defense strength to erode. Serious erosion of our strategic defense capability not only would tempt an aggressor, but it would also weaken our ability to implement an effective foreign policy.

We must take steps today to insure our national security for tomorrow.



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Sending Mixed Signals

The lifting of the American grain embargo against the Soviet Union gives the United States an unflattering image of softness and vacillation, and sends mixed signals to the international community.

The embargo was imposed in January, 1980, in response to the Soviet Union's brutal invasion of Afghanistan, a previously independent and unoccupied nation.

Thousands of Afghans — including children — were murdered. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans abandoned their homes and fled to the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Iran to avoid Soviet subjugation.

Today, the brutal acts of aggression have not abated, and 85,000 Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan.

The ban of American grain sales to the Soviet Union has taken a toll.

The Soviet Union is facing a severe agricultural crisis over the next few years. The embargo worsened the already-short Soviet grain supplies, forcing that country to reduce its meat rations and use its scarce gold and western currencies for the purchase of alternative grain supplies.

In other words, the embargo has been an effective foreign policy tool because it has extracted a price from the Soviets for their unwarranted invasion of

Afghanistan.

And contrary to initial fears raised when the embargo was imposed, the grain ban did not hurt American farmers. They were able to shift their trade to many other countries, including China, Taiwan, Japan, and Mexico.

The Administration's decision to lift the embargo was gratuitous — meaning that the United States has gained nothing in return. Consequently, our nation has lost a valuable foreign policy bargaining chip.

It should also be noted that removal of the ban on American grain sales in no way enhances the security of Poland.

Soviet troops had been poised on Polish borders for several weeks, but finally have been pulled back. It would be unconscionable to suggest that the United States would want to reward the Soviet Union for its "good behavior" in not invading Poland.

Thus, the lifting of the grain embargo against the Soviets leaves the United States looking weak and lacking in resolve.

The Soviet Union has not pulled out of Afghanistan and the threat to Poland still exists. This unilateral move by the United States, unfortunately, gives the impression to the world community that our nation's foreign policy is inconsistent and uncertain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Guarding U.S. Interests

Protection of the national security interests of the United States is the principal element that must be considered in the Administration's proposed sale of sophisticated aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

The proposed arms package involves the sale of five advanced surveillance airplanes—known as airborne warning and control systems (AWACS)—to Saudi Arabia to help that country protect its oil fields.

Saudi Arabia, which is by far the largest producer of oil in the Persian Gulf region, is looking for increased defense capabilities to protect itself against threats to its national security. The country is located in an unstable region of the world, with certain nearby nations under the influence of the Soviet Union.

The aircraft involved in the proposed sale, however, contains some of the most sophisticated electronic equipment the United States has in its inventory. The sale of this equipment to a non-NATO country raises serious concerns over the security of this weaponry.

This is the key consideration I outlined recently in a letter to Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Before the proposal is presented for-

mally to Congress for its deliberations, this element—as well as other concerns—must be addressed by the Administration.

Members of Congress need to know if special security arrangements have been developed to insure adequate protection of the aircraft and the classified manuals included.

The United States must not allow this equipment to fall into Soviet hands. If it did, it would enable the Soviets to accelerate the development of their defenses against low-flying aircraft and missiles, and enhance their intelligence capabilities.

Another key element to consider is the effect the sale of these aircraft would have on the stability of the Middle East region. Because the planes could multiply the offensive power of Saudi Arabia, Israel is likely to seek new weapons in response.

All of these and other factors must be considered carefully by the Administration before the proposed package is presented formally to the Congress. In the final analysis, the Administration and Congress must act in the best security interests of the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Space Technology

The recent success of the space shuttle launch may bring more to our country than merely a resurgence of national pride—it may represent a horn of plenty in technological advances for the future.

This by-product of industrial and commercial innovation could stimulate productivity in the marketplace, contributing to national economic growth.

The key to this potential of American inventiveness lies in the success of the world's first re-usable rocket ship that can fly return trips between earth and space. It is hoped that this space shuttle will lead to factories in space—where new products can be made in an environment free of gravity.

Some scientists believe, for instance, that numerous metal alloys that cannot be produced on earth will be possible in space. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) looks forward to the production of a metal alloy that will be extremely lightweight, that will yield unusual strength, and that will have self-lubricating properties.

Such a material could be used in the production of automobiles that would use less fuel because of its light weight, and perhaps have life expectancies of 500,000

miles due to the alloy's strength and self-lubricating qualities.

Scientists also believe that medical breakthroughs will be achieved through these futuristic space factories. The gravity-free atmosphere will allow new variations in biological substances, suggesting the possibility of purer vaccines and new drugs.

Since the creation of NASA in 1958, a variety of practical and productive benefits have evolved from our country's space program.

The overwhelming communications advancements made in the past three decades, for instance, are attributable to satellite communications, which enable any spot in the world to be linked, via television or radio communication, to any other location.

Other satellites have made significant contributions in the reporting and forecasting of international crop productions, and in improved weather forecasting—helping to save millions of dollars and many lives.

Predicting what mysteries of the universe will unfold as our nation continues to venture into the unknown is difficult. But, based on past experiences, vast opportunities appear to await us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our Older Americans

Although steps must be taken to shore up the financial stability of the Social Security system, Congress must not—and will not—allow any changes in the program that would suddenly and drastically reduce benefits for our older Americans.

Although the Administration had included Social Security in its so-called "safety net" that would not be affected by federal spending cuts, it recently proposed the abrupt reduction of benefits for persons who choose early retirement.

Under present law, persons who retire at age 62 receive 80 percent of the Social Security benefits they would otherwise receive upon retirement at age 65. Under the Administration's proposal, persons who retire early would receive only 55 percent of full Social Security benefits.

This proposal is unfair, harsh, and precipitous.

Adoption of this proposal would violate the government's solemn commitment to individuals who are nearing retirement age.

The Social Security system is based on trust, confidence, and predictability. In other words, it would constitute a breach of faith with the American people

to suddenly slash benefits for individuals who—after paying into the system for years—planned their retirement on the promise of a specific level of income.

The Administration proposal fails to recognize that many Americans do not have the option of choosing to retire at age 62—but are forced into it because of ill health, obsolescent skills, or a lack of employment.

There is no question that the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund must be addressed by the Congress. Any changes in the program, however, must be considered carefully to insure that they are humane and fair.

It should be remembered that millions of our nation's elderly depend almost exclusively on monthly Social Security checks to provide for their essential needs of food, clothing, and shelter.

Any plan to reform this national retirement system must have bi-partisan support—and must involve cooperation between the Administration and members Congress.

Congress will not allow the Social Security system to go bankrupt. Neither will it deny fair and reasonable treatment of our elderly population.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Weapons in Orbit

A significant element of our nation's future defense system is the development of the laser satellite weapon that could destroy enemy missiles launched at the United States.

The Department of Defense has been engaging in research and development of this weapon for several years, and believes that a fleet of laser satellites could be placed into orbit in about 10 years.

The Defense procurement bill recently passed by the Senate, which I supported, included \$147 million for the next fiscal year to continue the development of this laser technology.

The laser satellite would destroy an ascending missile by focusing a narrow beam of light produced by a chemical laser on the missile for a fraction of a second, destroying its warheads. These "killer" satellites also are effective against high-flying bombers.

The success of this technology obviously would enhance the defense posture of the United States, giving our nation protection against an enemy strike. The laser satellite is a defensive weapon, not offensive.

The development of this innovative weapon is not the first of our country's use of space technology to enhance our defense capabilities. In fact, the De-

fense's space program has launched more spacecraft than has the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

These launchings have put into orbit a variety of satellites to assist the Defense Department with reconnaissance, weather forecasting, navigation, and communications.

In addition to conducting earth surveillance, the Department is studying ways to increase its surveillance of activities occurring in space, including the estimated 4,000 satellites and other objects already orbiting the earth.

The Soviet Union is also researching the laser satellite technology, and there are reports that it may orbit a "killer" satellite before the United States.

The Soviets also dedicate more of their space launchings to military purposes than does the United States.

Of the estimated 100 Soviet launchings each year, about 75 of them have military applications. The United States launches between 30 and 50 space vehicles per year, a third of which are military-related.

It is a sad commentary on our world that the arms race may extend to extra-terrestrial boundaries. But the United States cannot allow the Soviet Union to gain an advantage that could threaten our national security interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Value of Education

Having attended many high school and college commencement ceremonies throughout West Virginia over the last several weeks, I was heartened by the enthusiasm and optimism displayed by this year's graduates.

I have always believed that educational excellence should be encouraged because a sound education gives an individual the tools with which to make significant contributions throughout his life.

The value of education cannot be overstated. It opens new vistas for an individual, giving him opportunities that otherwise would be beyond his reach.

Education, of course, can take many forms. For many, it is a liberal arts background received in the classroom. For others, it is on-the-job or vocational training, learning skills for a specific job.

Statistics show that Americans today are more formally educated than in past years.

In 1910, the average 25-year-old American had completed 8.1 years of school. By 1975, the average schooling completed at the same age was 12.3 years.

At the turn of the century, 11.3 percent of the nation's population was illiterate. In 1970, only 1.2 percent of our population could not functionally read and write.

Education, of course, does not start and stop with the classroom, nor is its sole function to prepare individuals for jobs or careers.

A good education equips an individual to assume his responsibilities to become a good citizen, and to differentiate between right and wrong. It teaches him how to contribute to society—through pride of workmanship, and integrity on the job and at home.

We should take advantage of every opportunity to expand our horizons. By so doing, we would not only benefit personally, but we would profit nationally, as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Heinous Crime

An assault on the President of the United States is one of the most serious crimes in our country, and therefore should carry a commensurately severe punishment.

For this reason, I recently introduced legislation that would require life imprisonment for anyone convicted of attempting to kill the President, a President-elect, the Vice President, or the official next in line of Presidential succession.

Under current law, the assassination of the President is a capital offense, and, in my opinion, the death penalty should be mandatory. The attempted assassination of the Chief Executive, however, does not even carry a mandatory life sentence. Instead, the law provides only a sentence of any term of years up to life.

The wounding of the President, however, could require surgery and involve temporary incapacitation—which is a potential threat to our national security, a possible disruption of our government.

Unfortunately, the history of our country is marred by the fact that the attempted assassination of President Reagan this year does not stand alone. This deplorable incident marked

the eighth time a sitting Chief Executive was the victim of an assassination attempt.

Four of our Presidents have been killed by assassins' bullets—Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy. Three other Presidents escaped serious injury — Andrew Jackson, Harry Truman, and Gerald Ford.

Following the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968, I introduced legislation — which was enacted into law—that made it a capital offense to kill a member or member-elect of Congress.

Incredibly, Sirhan B. Sirhan, who was convicted of assassinating Robert Kennedy, is scheduled for parole on Sept. 1, 1984. Although Sirhan originally was sentenced to death, his sentence later was commuted to a life term, making him eligible for release on parole.

The attempted murder of any individual should be severely punished. But the attempted assassination of the President of the United States is a particularly heinous crime and deserves severe punishment that is swift and certain. Therefore, under my bill, a life sentence would be mandatory.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bread, But No Butter

The United States needs a clear, consistent, and predictable foreign policy for dealing with the Soviet Union.

Unfortunately, contradictory actions taken by our government give the impression of a see-saw strategy — an impression the United States can ill afford.

About two months ago, the Administration lifted the embargo the United States had placed on the sale of grain to the Soviet Union. The embargo—which I had consistently supported—had been imposed in response to the Soviets' callous and brutal invasion of Afghanistan.

Following the lifting of the embargo, the Administration announced an agreement to allow the Soviets to buy up to nine million metric tons of wheat and corn.

At the same time that these grain negotiations were being completed, however, the Administration made known that it would not permit the sale of surplus butter to the Soviet Union.

Although the butter apparently will be sold to foreign countries, the Admin-

istration plans to impose restrictions specifically banning the resale of the butter to the Soviets, who are in short supply of this commodity. It was reported that the Administration believed the sale of butter to the Soviets would send the wrong signal.

Consequently, the United States is said to be pursuing a "bread, but no butter" policy toward the Soviet Union—one which must bewilder our allies and adversaries alike.

For the United States to retain its stature in world politics, it needs to articulate a clear and coordinated policy toward the Soviet Union. Aggressive behavior should not just draw a verbal rebuke from the United States, but should also prompt appropriate reprisals.

The United States must make clear that it does not accept the Soviets' occupation of Afghanistan, and will not condone interference into Poland's internal affairs.

Soviet leaders must be put on notice—through our foreign policy—that any future acts of aggression will be costly.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Paying Our Debt

The nine million men and women who served in the military during the Vietnam War not only deserve our nation's recognition and gratitude, but also a helping hand to assist them in readjusting to civilian life.

Veterans' legislation approved recently by the U.S. Senate provides substantial assistance to our Vietnam veterans.

Included in the bill is an amendment, which I co-sponsored, to provide basic Veterans' Administration health-care eligibility for veterans who were exposed in the line of military duty to dangerous substances, including Agent Orange and nuclear radiation.

Agent Orange — which contained the toxic chemical, dioxin—was a herbicide sprayed by U.S. forces in Vietnam to destroy food and jungle-cover for the enemy.

Although the evidence is not conclusive, most scientific and medical studies indicate a link between exposure to dioxin and radiation and the subsequent development of specific illnesses. Thus, it is fully warranted to provide an adequate level of medical attention to veterans who

were exposed to these substances.

Another amendment I co-sponsored would provide a three-year extension of eligibility for Vietnam veterans to participate in the readjustment counseling program called "Operation Outreach."

Ninety-one storefront VA counseling centers across the country comprise this program, providing mental health counseling to Vietnam veterans suffering from the residual emotional effects of the war.

In West Virginia, a counseling center is located in Huntington, where about 650 veterans have received readjustment services in the past year.

America owes a fair debt of gratitude to all veterans who have served their country well.

Passage of this legislation renews our national commitment to all veterans, but especially to those who served in the Vietnam War. Moreover, such action should confirm our nation's willingness to fulfill its obligations to the men and women who have sacrificed and endured hardships on behalf of their country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cracking Down on Crime

Violent crime—which has reached near epidemic proportions in our communities across the nation—represents a terrifying threat to our domestic security.

To help curb the daily assaults on our people and their property, I joined with a group of U.S. Senators recently in endorsing a comprehensive legislative package aimed at controlling violent crime in the United States.

Criminals must be punished swiftly, with sentences commensurate with the magnitude of their crimes, and with the assurance that they are not back on the streets repeating their violence.

The legislation — called the National Security and Violent Crime Amendments of 1981—includes bail and sentencing reforms, and the tightening of drug trafficking laws.

It is based on the conviction that international drug trafficking, organized crime, and violent crime constitute a dangerous threat to our national well-being.

Included in the package is my proposal to mandate a life sentence, with no

parole, for the attempted assassination of the President, President-elect, Vice President, or the official next in line of succession.

Other provisions would:

- create a Cabinet-level Director of Narcotics Operations and Policy, who would be responsible for the direction of all U.S. policy and resources dealing with the illegal drug problem;

- mandate prison sentences for violent offenses and second-felony convictions;

- increase mandatory prison terms for the use of a weapon in the commission of a crime; and

- mandate consecutive sentencing for a felony committed by an individual out on bail for a prior felony.

This package represents an effective and realistic federal response to the urgent problem of controlling violent crime in the United States.

It is essential that we recognize the devastating impact that crime is having on our society, and that we make a full national commitment to combat it. The time to act is now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safeguarding Our Energy Future

Energy conservation by Americans, and a temporary glut on the world petroleum market, have given the United States a reprieve from critical shortages in energy supplies.

High energy prices and uncertain supplies over the past several years have led to considerable conservation by individuals, businesses, and government—and that effort is finally showing up in our energy usage. The consumption of oil in the United States now is lower than in 1973—the benchmark year prior to the Arab oil embargo.

Because of this decline in energy usage, imports of crude oil and refined petroleum products are down about 20 percent from last year. Oil imports to the United States currently supply about one-third of our domestic energy needs, which now average about 16 million barrels of oil daily.

While this respite from escalating prices and uncertain supplies is welcome, it should not bring an end to our efforts toward achieving energy independence.

About 40 percent of the oil imported by the United States is supplied by the Arab members of OPEC. A sudden cut-off in oil supplies from the Persian Gulf region—an area not known for its political stability—could

throw our country into turmoil.

Our country still is in need of an energy insurance policy that would protect us in the event of an energy crisis.

Unfortunately, the Administration has failed to support the development of a synthetic fuels industry, which could fill the gap if imported oil supplies were curtailed.

At the initiative of the Administration, Germany, and Japan recently agreed to terminate the synthetic fuels demonstration project planned for Morgantown.

Cancellation of this project is shortsighted and represents another step in the Administration's unraveling of our nation's energy policy that was put into place by Congress over the past four years.

It is a serious mistake to disavow our energy goals and become slack in our efforts to attain energy self-sufficiency. Continued dependence on imported oil not only jeopardizes our national security, but also constrains the independence of our foreign policy, and curbs our economic growth.

Our country needs an energy strategy in place today—one that will lend itself to the long-term economic and military security of the United States.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hard Decisions on Defense

The United States is on the path toward rebuilding its defense strength to counter the emerging Soviet threat, but some hard decisions lay ahead for the Administration and Congress to achieve a coherent strategy.

A first step has been taken with Senate passage of legislation—recommended by the Administration—that authorizes the procurement of \$136 billion in defense hardware.

There is no doubt that immediate and substantial increases in our national defense budget are badly needed. The worldwide challenge to American and Western interests by the Soviet Union cannot be met with the inadequate defense budgets we have had over the last decade.

Some hard decisions, however, still are in the offing.

One of the most significant decisions that must be made as soon as possible is the selection between the B-1 and the "Stealth" aircraft as our nation's new manned bomber.

The defense authorization bill included more than \$2 billion for putting a new manned strategic bomber on the production line, but the Administration has not recommended which aircraft should be built.

Because the "Stealth" aircraft is designed to elude

Soviet air defense systems well into the next century, it appears to be the far better choice over the B-1 bomber, which, military experts say, would not be capable of penetrating Soviet air defense in the 1990's.

Likewise, a hard decision is needed for meeting our nation's manpower needs. The Administration has endorsed the costly all-volunteer Army concept, hoping to lure recruits with better pay and benefits.

Unfortunately, current projections show that our armed forces are going to fall about 200,000 men short of our manpower needs for the 1980's.

Also, there are indications that the Administration intends to abandon the current military system for mobilizing manpower in the event of a national emergency. This would be a mistake.

A national buildup of strategic weapons and manpower should not be exclusive of arms control efforts with the Soviet Union.

There has been a virtual lack of movement in the arms control arena under the present Administration.

These hard decisions on strategic weapons, manpower needs, and arms control must be made for the United States to achieve an effective defense policy for the 1980's.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protections Needed For U.S. Defense Programs

The development of a new manned strategic bomber that could enter Soviet airspace undetected is of the utmost importance to our national security.

A major breach of national security, however, may have occurred recently with the release of new and extensive information concerning the top-secret "stealth" aircraft, which currently is America's most advanced manned strategic bomber in the planning stage.

The development of the "stealth" bomber is one of the options the Administration is considering for replacing our country's current fleet of aging B-52 bombers.

Although the Administration has not yet decided whether to pursue the production of the "stealth" aircraft or a new B-1 bomber, the release of any sensitive information concerning our defense apparatus must be viewed with the most serious concern.

The information, published in an aviation trade magazine, detailed costs, schedules, and various technologies associated with the

"stealth" program, and even possible Soviet countermeasures to the new weapon. Much of the information was attributed to "high-level Defense Department officials."

Accordingly, I have asked President Reagan to conduct an investigation regarding the security precautions that surround this program.

I hope that the Administration's investigation will reveal the identity of the person or persons who released the information, and that it will lead to immediate steps to prevent the release of vital national security secrets in the future.

I also am concerned over recent reports detailing U.S. intelligence activities with the People's Republic of China.

National security leaks such as these could adversely affect our national security and cause friends and allies in the world to restrict their cooperation with the United States.

For these reasons, it is imperative that security precautions surrounding our defense efforts be tightened.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Benefits From Coal Conversion

The conversion of utility generating stations from oil to coal could help produce triple benefits for our nation — achieving greater energy self-reliance, retaining U.S. dollars within our boundaries for investment here at home, and enhancing national security.

Although our country currently has adequate supplies of petroleum due to the availability of foreign oil and decreased usage through conservation efforts, about \$70 billion continues to flow out of our nation each year for overseas fuel purchases, adding significantly to our inflation rate.

The conversion of generating stations from oil to coal could make a substantial impact on our nation's oil needs. Currently, electric utility generating plants consume about 1.2 million barrels of oil per day.

To encourage the voluntary conversion of oil and gas-fired power plants, I have sponsored a proposal that will provide accelerated depreciation schedules for utilities that switch to coal.

Under my proposal, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 100 to 0, utilities, will be able to depreciate the cost of converted generating facilities in 10 years.

Although this proposal will result in a modest revenue loss to the U.S. Treasury in reduced taxes paid by the utilities, these costs will be more than off-

set by the resulting fuel savings.

The displacement of even 500,000 barrels of oil per day by 1985 would reduce America's foreign-oil bill by no less than \$6.5 billion per year. This is money that would stay at home, providing jobs and investment opportunities to promote this nation's economic recovery.

I have also co-sponsored an amendment — inserted into the pending 1982 Appropriations bill for the Interior—that provides \$5 million to continue the fuels conversion program operated by the Department of Energy, a program which would otherwise be eliminated under the Administration's proposed budget.

This program would be valuable—to West Virginia and the country as a whole —because it would assist in the potential conversion of up to 83 utility generating stations from oil to coal. These potential conversions would save more than 220 million barrels of oil annually, and increase coal consumption by up to 57 million tons per year.

Coal conversion offers one of the most direct, near-term, and cost-effective opportunities for reducing U.S. reliance on imported oil. It is time for our nation to take steps to encourage these conversions to coal—for the benefit of our nation's energy future, and the economy, as well as our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving Social Security

The financial integrity of the Social Security system is of paramount importance. Congress cannot and will not allow this vital program to go bankrupt.

Recently, I co-sponsored an amendment on the Senate floor that would have solved the short-term cash-flow problem facing the Social Security system. Unfortunately, this amendment was defeated on a 51-45 straight party-line vote.

This amendment would have allowed the transfer of cash among the three separate trust funds—retirement, disability, and medicare hospitalization — that comprise the Social Security system.

Of the three funds, only the retirement fund faces a potential cash-flow problem in the near future. Although steps need to be taken to meet the long-term financing needs of the system, inter-fund borrowing would have been a positive and constructive step in resolving the near-term financing difficulties of the retirement fund.

In addressing the financial needs of the Social Security system this year—as Congress surely must do—the Congress and the American public must not be hoodwinked by dire predictions from Administration spokesmen, such as Budget

Director David Stockman who predicted the system will go bankrupt in November 1982.

There is legitimate concern that the Administration has exaggerated the financial plight of the Social Security system in an attempt to make deep cuts in benefits to help reach the goal of balancing the federal budget.

Although I strongly support the goal of matching federal expenditures with revenues, we cannot allow our older Americans to bear the brunt of balancing the budget.

The Senate recently unanimously rejected the Administration's proposal that called for drastic, harsh, and precipitous cuts in Social Security benefits. A second resolution—also adopted unanimously by the Senate—rejected any notion of taxing Social Security payments in the future.

Although steps must be taken to shore up the Social Security Trust Fund, Congress should not allow any actions that are not truly necessary to restore the system's financial stability.

I believe that ways can be found to solve the problems of the Social Security system, and at the same time, be fair and equitable to present and future retirees.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

God in American History

Religious faith and reliance on God have undoubtedly played a crucial role in the development of our nation and the cultivation of our national standards and values.

Several New England colonies, as well as Pennsylvania and Maryland, were established primarily for religious reasons. Moreover, millions of settlers in other colonies and later immigrants—Baptists, Catholics, Quakers, Jews, and Lutherans, for example—came to America for freedom of worship.

The Thanksgiving observances of the Plymouth Colony, of course, are well known. But the influence of the Deity in other historical events should not be overlooked.

One of the most significant contributions of religious faith to America, for instance, may have been the American Revolution itself. The majority of the Founding Fathers were churchmen steeped in the Judaeo-Christian tradition. The God they worshipped was a Provident and Just Magistrate who was Himself indignant at British tyranny.

The Founding Fathers also had no hesitancy in looking to the Lord for daily guidance.

It was at Benjamin Franklin's request that the Constitutional Convention began each day with prayer, a practice that has never lapsed in the Congress. To this day, the first daily order of busi-

ness in the Senate and House of Representatives is a prayer led by a chaplain or some other person.

The values cultivated by our nation's early religious communities helped to set national standards. Our spiritual ancestors believed in elementary virtues such as sobriety, chastity, thrift, work, honesty—qualities that helped make America great.

Religious faith has served as a never-ending leaven in our national life. Our faith has shaped our national conscience and influenced our laws. In that process, the United States has achieved standards of living and public decency and compassion unknown before in human history.

It is not surprising, therefore, that every President from George Washington to Ronald Reagan has included some reference to the Deity in his Inaugural Address. Taken together, that body of Inaugural speeches confirms the sense of Divine purpose that runs unbroken through our history.

From our nation's birth—and continuing through today—our nation's leaders and the vast majority of Americans have looked beyond their anxieties and crises of the moment to the Eternal Light beyond. From that source they received, and will continue to receive, guidance to steer and chart their course—the course of our nation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Americans Deserve A Tax Break

Although I believe the tax-cut package passed by Congress this year should have given a greater share of the benefits to middle- and lower-income taxpayers, there is little doubt that the American people and businesses deserved a tax break.

Many important incentives for increased investment and savings were contained in the tax-cut bill.

Included in the measure are a reform of depreciation rates for business, relief from the marriage tax penalty, and a new tax exclusion for savings interest that should make home financing more affordable.

Even though the distribution of benefits to individuals was tilted to favor the wealthy, the legislation provides a margin of tax relief to the hard-pressed middle class of this country.

When the tax-cut bill came before the Senate, I attempted on numerous occasions, to improve the measure through amendments that would have distributed more of the bene-

fits to taxpayers earning between \$10,000 and \$50,000 annually.

I also favored amendments that would have reduced the amount of income subject to the capital gains tax from 40 to 30 percent, reduced the corporate tax rates of small businesses, and increased the tax credit for industrial and commercial energy conservation.

Other proposals I supported would have increased the retirement income tax credit enjoyed by elderly Americans, and accelerated the effective date of removal of the marriage tax penalty.

Unfortunately, none of these amendments passed. I believe their adoption would have improved the bill significantly.

Despite these flaws remaining in the tax bill, I supported the final legislation because I believed the American people want and deserve a tax cut. I also believe that American business and industry need incentives to increase the level of productivity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Position of Strength

I support the President's decision to produce the neutron bomb as an effective counter against the Soviet Union's growing military strength in eastern Europe, which poses a security threat to the entire Free World.

In terms of troops and tanks, the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies in eastern Europe outnumber the forces and weaponry of the United States and NATO in Europe.

Deployment of the neutron bomb, however, would neutralize this strategic imbalance.

While Soviet tanks are designed to withstand the fallout effects of conventional nuclear blasts, radiation from a neutron warhead could penetrate the armored vehicles, killing the enemy.

The limited range of the neutron bomb and its short-lived radiation would allow its use against enemy troops on European territory without destroying nearby civilians, cities,

bridges and highways.

Possession of the neutron bomb in our weapons arsenal also reduces the chances of war. Because this weapon is perceived as an effective and usable one, it would deter Soviet aggression or hostile acts by other potential adversaries.

It should be emphasized that this nuclear weapon—as in the case of any nuclear weapon—will be used only under the specific order of the President of the United States. No one else is authorized to make the decision on the use of nuclear weapons.

I sincerely hope that we never have to use the neutron bomb—or any kind of nuclear weapon. And I wish it were not necessary to place the neutron warhead in our nation's weapons arsenal.

But because of the potential threats to the entire Free World, reality demands that the United States must do everything possible to safeguard our country and our allies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia on Display

West Virginia's rich heritage is displayed almost daily through fairs and festivals that abound throughout the Mountain State during these warm months—where West Virginians have the opportunity to exhibit their wares and their talents.

About 450 fairs and festivals are held every year in West Virginia, each with its own character and identity. Many of these festivities honor our mountain heritage or pay tribute to our natural resources, such as coal, pumpkins, strawberries, and molasses.

They are all a delight to attend. The flavor of such Mountain State gatherings cannot be excelled elsewhere—from the mountain music to the tempting home cooking, including one of my favorites, home-made ice cream.

American county fairs—which are such an integral part of our national heritage—can be traced back to 1807 when Elkanah Watson, a gentleman farmer, exhibited his Merino sheep in the village square in Pittsfield, Mass. The attention attracted by this exhibit persuaded Watson to organize annual exhibits of livestock and farm produce so that farmers could exchange experiences and products.

By 1820, almost every county in New England had organized annual fairs for agricultural displays, including prizes for the best exhibits.

Fairs and festivals today serve a multitude of purposes. They serve as convenient places for trade because of the large congregation of buyers and sellers. They also provide competitive exhibitions, and give manufacturers the opportunity to introduce new products to the general public.

And with the variety of amusements and entertainment offered, they are just plain fun.

Although West Virginia has its share of shopping malls to carry on large-scale trade, our fairs and festivals continue to flourish in these modern times of the 1980's.

Perhaps it is because these gatherings emphasize the traditional and rewarding values of individual expertise and craftsmanship. Rare creative skills can be seen in the pottery, quilts, woodwork, metalwork, macramé, and a host of other arts and crafts on display.

At these festivities, one often can enjoy and purchase goods found nowhere else in the world—products made by enterprising men and women working with their hands, with keen imaginations and great discipline.

West Virginia's fairs and festivals are wholesome, entertaining, and educational—part of a flavorful tradition that gives the Mountain State its unique character and identity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Train Service

Passenger trains provide a valuable service to thousands of West Virginians—both in rural communities and in urban centers—who find rail transportation a convenient and efficient way to travel.

Over the years, I have worked continuously to retain and improve the service provided by Amtrak through the Mountain State.

Unfortunately, the Administration's budget cuts enacted this year will result in reduced passenger train service nationwide, including West Virginia.

I hope, however, that the Cardinal train — which serves our major population centers of Charleston and Huntington—will be retained. The Cardinal also has scheduled stops in White Sulphur Springs, Hinton, Prince, and Thurmond.

Because this train provides essential transportation to thousands of people in the southern and central regions of West Virginia, it would be shortsighted of Amtrak to discontinue it. In fact, ridership along this route has increased substantially—up nearly 33 percent during the year ending May, 1981.

I have pointed out these facts to Amtrak President Alan Boyd, and have urged him to do everything possible to keep the Cardinal running through West Virginia. Language in the conference report accompanying the 1981 Amtrak reauthorization legislation ad-

vises Amtrak to pursue "all available alternatives" to ensure that the Cardinal be retained.

Amtrak has deferred until Oct. 1 its decision on whether to make any cutbacks in the Cardinal service.

It is unfortunate that the Shenandoah train, which runs through northern West Virginia, will be terminated Oct. 1, but its low ridership figures did not justify its expense. It will be replaced, however, by the new Broadway Limited that will make stops in Martinsburg and Harpers Ferry.

The Blue Ridge, which also serves the eastern panhandle, has been re-authorized for the next two years, although regular weekend trips will be terminated to cut costs.

Passenger rail service provides a vital transportation link in a rural, mountainous state like West Virginia, especially in bad-weather months. Trains also are more fuel-efficient than cars, and provide a reasonable alternative when commuters are faced with high gas prices and uncertain fuel supplies.

It is important that some of our state's major population centers be served by passenger trains—and that West Virginia has at least one train providing through-state service. Although it may be an uphill fight in view of the Administration's budget cutbacks, I will continue my efforts to retain passenger rail service for West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Honoring Our Citizen-Soldiers

Our National Guard deserves the respect, confidence, and recognition of the American people for the night-and-day protection these citizen-soldiers provide our nation — always ready to assist when disaster strikes and in time of war.

In recognition of the unique nature and important mission of the National Guard, I recently introduced a joint resolution in the U.S. Senate that would designate Oct. 7 of each year as National Guard Day.

It was on that date in 1636 that the National Guard was founded—when the General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts incorporated its loosely-gathered militia into a regiment.

Although the Guard's early mission focused on protection of our new country's trails, waterways, and roads, it expanded to include a variety of duties as our nation developed and grew.

In 1878, the organized militia of the various states became the National Guard as the country's official reserve force, to be equipped by the federal government, but to remain under state control. Passage of the National Defense Act in 1916 subjected the Guard to a

federal call to duty.

The Guard's swift and ready response to a variety of emergencies over the years has given it a reputation for efficiency and bravery.

Among events triggering the mobilization of Guard units were the Johnstown flood, the Texas City explosion, Hurricanes Camille and Agnes, the Teamster's truckers strike, and flooding of the Tug Fork area in West Virginia.

In fiscal year 1980, emergencies in 47 states required the services of 30,000 National Guard troops and 203,000 man-days of service.

In West Virginia, there are more than 3,400 Army National Guard personnel at 41 units throughout the state and nearly 1,800 Air National Guard personnel at their bases in Charleston and Martinsburg.

It also should be noted that because the Guard is combat-ready, these troops represent a significant amount of total U.S. military strength in the early days of a national emergency or in time of war.

It is only fitting that the vital role played by the Army and Air National Guard in our country be publicly recognized and commemorated each year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

High Interest Rates

No segment of our economy is immune from the high interest rates that have been plaguing our nation this year, choking off economic recovery, and spelling disaster for several key industries.

The Federal Reserve Board, with the support of the Administration, has been pursuing a tight monetary policy that is responsible to some degree for these high interest rates.

To provide some relief, I recently co-sponsored a resolution that calls on the Federal Reserve Board to discourage large banks from lending funds for unproductive and speculative purposes, such as giant business mergers, and, instead, require such banks to promote the expansion of credit to sectors of the economy that need it, such as the housing and automobile industries, farming and small business.

The recent trend toward giant corporate mergers has resulted in an enormous loan demand that has cornered the limited available credit and contributed to the high level of interest rates.

More than 30 major business mergers — each worth at least \$500 million—have been proposed or completed since the middle of 1979. While these mergers consume enormous amounts of credit, they do not create

jobs or add significantly to the economy's productivity.

Instead, this credit needs to be made available for productive purposes, and for stimulating the sectors of our economy that are most suffering.

The housing industry, of course, is one of the hardest hit components of our economy. With most mortgage loans demanding an average interest rate of 16 percent or above, few Americans can afford to purchase homes. Consequently, new home construction is down significantly this year, with some predictions that housing starts in 1981 could reach a 35-year low.

The high interest rates also have squeezed the automobile industry, farmers, and small businessmen.

Bankruptcies are 42 percent higher in the first eight months of this year than for the comparable period last year. More than 90 percent of these failures hit small business—companies with liabilities of less than \$1 million.

Measures need to be taken to expand the credit available for all segments of our economy, which would lower interest rates. The channeling of bank funds into our country's depressed industries — and away from non-productive and speculative purposes—would be a step in the right direction.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

School Lunches

The recent episode over the ingredients of an adequate school lunch for elementary children demonstrates the danger in making sweeping budget cuts without evaluating the merits of each federal program.

As part of its budget-cutting measures, the Administration sought and won a 35 percent reduction in the school lunch program. To reduce the costs of these lunches provided for more than 27 million children across the country, the Department of Agriculture issued new regulations that specify the minimum requirements for a school lunch.

The new regulations lowered the current requirement that school lunches provide one-third of the daily nutritional needs of each child to only one-fourth of the required nutritional base.

Under the new specifications, a school lunch could be comprised of a one and one-half ounce patty of meat, eight thin french fries, nine grapes, one slice of bread, and six ounces of milk.

Ketchup, relish, and tomato paste could qualify as vegetables, under the new regulations, and peanuts and sunflower seeds could replace meat.

Fortunately, the national publicity that ensued over the school lunch requirements prompted a quick reversal from the Administration on the proposed new regulations.

This school lunch illustration, however, shows that many federal programs have already been cut to the bone, and that the proposed second round of budget cuts by the Administration may be more difficult.

Budget cuts that eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse can be applauded by everyone. Budget cuts that go to the core of worthwhile and necessary human or economic programs are not so simple.

I support the goal of a balanced federal budget, but I believe this objective should not be attained at cost to the health of our school children or the elderly.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dangerous Complacency

With today's ready availability of energy supplies and stable oil prices, our national commitment to energy independence has evaporated into a dangerous complacency.

Although Congress and previous Administrations put into place a national energy policy designed to stimulate the production of alternative energy supplies and to set forth emergency plans in the event of an energy cut-off, the current Administration has put its faith in the private sector for meeting our national energy needs.

The short-term price stability in energy supplies that the world is now experiencing, however, does not reflect a corresponding political stability in the world's richest oil region—the Middle East.

Recent events—especially the senseless and tragic killing of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—demonstrate how volatile and unpredictable the Middle East is.

While the United States has reduced its foreign oil imports, and has cut energy consumption by nine percent from last year's levels, it still depends on OPEC oil for at least 12 percent of its total petroleum needs.

A cut-off in our foreign

oil supplies—whether due to an oil embargo or even a war—is as possible today as it was in the 1970's when the energy crisis first appeared.

Despite our experience with long gasoline lines and shortages in oil supplies, energy emergency plans and efforts to develop synthetic fuels have been allowed to languish in the last nine months.

Today, we have no emergency energy plans. In case of a national crisis, no mechanisms exist to ensure that our defense forces, police, ambulances, or farmers would have gasoline to protect our country, to guard our streets, to move the sick to hospitals, or to get food to market.

Our nation's economic strength and defense security demand a balanced energy policy that provides for America's long-term security as well as dealing with sudden crises. It is incumbent upon government and industry to cooperate in developing comprehensive energy planning and providing for energy self-sufficiency.

The United States cannot afford to leave its energy future to chance, to the current oil glut, or to the fragile destiny of Middle Eastern governments.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Providing the Best Possible Defense

Although the Administration's recent decisions for building our nation's defense strength contain many worthy programs, I am disappointed with the recommendations made for basing the MX missile system and production of the B-1 bomber.

Certainly, the Administration should be commended on its plans to upgrade our military communications capabilities, its commitment to the new D-5 submarine-launched missile, and its commitment to production of the MX missile itself.

But on the key strategic weapons systems, the Administration is following a path of buying outmoded equipment and foregoing opportunities to upgrade our arsenal with the most sophisticated weaponry available.

The decision to produce 100 B-1 bombers is, I fear, a decision to opt for used-car technology.

Many military experts have testified that the B-1 bomber will be unable to enter Soviet air space undetected by the late 1980's. At a cost of \$200 million per plane, why should we produce aircraft that so closely parallels the capabilities of our current force of B-52s?

I believe that it would be more practical, more beneficial to our nation's de-

fense, and more cost-effective to move forward with production of the top-secret "Stealth" aircraft, which is designed to elude Soviet radar well into the next century.

Concerning the MX missile system, the Administration proposes to place 36 missiles in existing, but re-fortified, silos that were built for the old Titan missiles. Although planning to produce 100 MX missiles, the Administration has deferred a decision on the basing mode for the remaining 64 missiles.

I believe a mobile basing system for our MX missiles would offer our country greater protection against potential attack from the Soviet Union, which will be able to train its missiles on our stationary silos as potential targets.

I support the Administration's commitment to the upgrading of our national defense capabilities, and to stabilizing the balance of strategic power that rests between our country and the Soviet Union.

Our defense dollars, however, can support only a limited number of programs. Consequently, our defense decisions must encompass the most advanced equipment and technology available to provide our country with the best possible national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Welcome Turnaround

Social Security legislation recently passed by the U.S. Senate would restore an unwise and unnecessary reduction in benefits and shore up the financial stability of the Social Security system for the short-term future.

This Congressional action represents a welcome turnaround by the Administration, which previously recommended the benefit cut and opposed taking steps to help the fund's short-term solvency.

Earlier this year, at the request of the Administration, the Congress voted to eliminate the minimum \$122 monthly Social Security benefit, which would have affected three million recipients beginning next March.

On five separate occasions in the Senate, the Administration led efforts to block, on party-line votes, restoration of the minimum benefit. Following the Administration's turnaround on this issue, however, the Senate voted unanimously to nullify its previous action.

The Social Security legislation also contains a provision that would provide for

inter-fund transfers among the three Social Security trust funds. Only one of these funds is showing a temporary cash-flow problem, and inter-fund transfers would remedy the situation for the short-term.

The Administration originally opposed this provision for inter-fund transfers and effectively blocked its passage, by a party-line vote, in the Senate. The Administration later reversed itself, however, and the inter-fund transfer provision won unanimous approval.

The long-term solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund, of course, still must be addressed.

But the immediate financial plight of the Social Security System has been exaggerated, and drastic and substantial cuts are not needed to restore its financial base. Our elderly citizens must not be sacrificed to achieve the goal of balancing the federal budget.

The financial integrity of the Social Security System must be preserved, and our elderly citizens must be protected.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing a Realistic Middle East Policy—I

My decision to oppose the Administration's proposed sale of sophisticated radar planes to Saudi Arabia, which was announced recently, was one of the most difficult foreign-policy decisions I have had to make in my Senate career.

In the final analysis, it was my judgment that the sale of these five advanced surveillance airplanes—known as Airborne Warning and Control Systems, or AWACS—would not best serve the interests of the United States.

Although there are many complex issues involved in the proposed sale, I believe America's proper course must be predicated on how to best pursue a lasting peace in the Middle East.

Although I support military assistance to our allies—which surely includes Saudi Arabia—I believe the critical issue to be resolved in the Middle East is not the threat of invasion by the Soviet Union, but the long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict.

The shipment of AWACS to Saudi Arabia will not stabilize the region or resolve this dispute. In fact, it could spark an escalating arms race between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

America's fundamental goal in the Middle East region is the promotion of peace and stability. To this end, the United States needs to breathe new life into the Camp David peace process, and broaden these peace

initiatives to include a resolution of the difficult Palestinian question.

As long as the Arab-Israeli dispute is pushed into the background, this sale does not make any sense. Rather than contributing to stability in the region, I fear that it will only raise the threshold of tension.

Arms and sweeping new military commitments will not defuse the radical elements that are spreading in many Middle Eastern countries. This radicalism feeds on the continued stalemate between Arab countries and Israel.

I also believe that the tragic assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—rather than demonstrating a greater need for arms transfers to Saudi Arabia—sends a strong signal that it is time for caution and reflection.

It also should be noted that the United States presently has AWACS aircraft patrolling the skies in Saudi Arabia that are manned by U.S. Air Force personnel. Why not continue this arrangement?

Rather than sending sophisticated weaponry to Saudi Arabia, it is in the best interests of the United States instead to develop and implement a realistic Middle East policy that focuses on the fundamental issue separating the Arabs and Israelis—the future of the Palestinians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing a Realistic Middle East Policy—II

Concern over the potential compromise of top-of-the-line technology developed by the United States played a significant role in my decision to oppose the sale of sophisticated radar airplanes to Saudi Arabia.

My concern rested not only on the five aircraft themselves — known as AWACS and which contain highly advanced electronic equipment in our military's inventory — but also on the 1,177 Sidewinder missiles that are part of the military hardware package.

The U.S. technology employed in these missiles and aircraft is far superior to that of the Soviet Union. If the Soviets should somehow acquire possession of any of this military equipment, it would give them valuable clues for developing effective deterrents against some of America's most sophisticated weaponry.

The AIM-9L air-to-air Sidewinder missile is a highly-advanced weapon, involving classified technology. Its advanced maneuverability allows the missile to be fired at enemy aircraft from any angle rather than only from the rear.

With this weapon, American pilots believe they have a realistic chance of surviving when attacked by an overwhelming number of enemy aircraft.

Despite this classified technology, consideration of the sale of the missiles to

Saudi Arabia did not proceed through normal channels established to safeguard America's advanced weapons systems, protecting them from risks, compromise, and misuse.

The National Disclosure Policy Committee, composed of representatives of the Secretary of Defense and the various military branches, is charged with weighing the risks of compromise on any proposed transfer of classified weapons technology to another nation. In the case of the proposed sale of the AIM-9L Sidewinder missiles to Saudi Arabia, however, the committee was bypassed.

The AWACS sold by the United States to NATO countries have strict controls applied to their use. The United States has joint command and control of these aircraft and can veto any decision regarding their use.

On the contrary, the United States has no treaty relationship with Saudi Arabia, nor any defense arrangement. There is no system of joint command and control over the AWACS being sold to that country.

The United States has the edge on military weapons technology over that of the Soviet Union. It is in our best interests to guard this technological superiority, rather than running the risk of compromise by making it available to volatile areas of the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Seeking Economic Relief

With our nation's economy in a recession, unemployment surging, and interest rates still too high, actions must be taken now to help the average American who is being so badly squeezed by this dismal economic picture.

Interest rates have been at unacceptably-high levels for too many months. Because of these high rates, bankruptcies among small businesses are mounting, auto sales are plunging, and the housing industry is in a severe downturn.

There is an interest rate emergency and it must be addressed immediately.

For this reason, I recently named an Emergency Task Force to Reduce Interest Rates that will recommend emergency measures for dealing with the high interest rates that are stifling key segments of our nation's economy.

Our country cannot afford to wait for the Administration's hoped-for economic recovery painted for the end of next spring or the beginning of next summer.

The high interest rates have taken a severe toll on the nation's housing industry. Because the collapse of this key segment of our economy would shake the foundations of countless other industries and businesses, ways must be found to supply adequate credit to the housing industry.

To this end, the tight money policy pursued by the Federal Reserve Board should be re-examined. In addition, it is incumbent on Congress to scrutinize closely the Administration's proposals to cut federal loan guarantee authority for housing — a step that will only aggravate the housing slump.

I also believe that the small businessman — the backbone of our economy — should have a voice in charting the economic course of our nation.

I recently introduced legislation that would direct the President to appoint a small business representative to fill the first vacancy on the Federal Reserve Board.

It is the Federal Reserve Board that determines our nation's monetary policies — which are reflected in the availability of credit in the marketplace, and the level of interest rates. It is time to give the small businessman a role in shaping our country's monetary policies.

The broad spectrum of American businesses and the American public cannot continue to tolerate the adverse economic conditions that have plagued our country for the past months. Steps need to be taken now to ease the economic hardships burdening most Americans and crippling business growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Clear Signal

To advance our foreign policy goals, the United States must send the strong, clear signal — to friend and foe alike — that we will not stand idly by if the Soviet Union, or its allies, invade Poland.

Unfortunately, actions of the Administration over the past several months have sent mixed signals, indicating inconsistency in U.S. policy toward Soviet aggression.

To clarify our policy, I recently offered an amendment to export legislation that called for an across-the-board embargo on all U.S. exports to the Soviet Union if the Soviets, or their allies, take direct military action against Poland.

If passed, my amendment would have been written into law, and it would have required the President to impose the trade embargo unless he certified to the Congress that such an embargo was not in the national security interests of the United States.

Although my original amendment was not adopted, the Senate did go on record stating that it was "the sense of the Senate" that a suspension of U.S. exports be imposed, in concert with our allies, if such an invasion occurred. While this action is not binding on the President, it is a step in the right direction.

This message is necessary to demonstrate, clearly and unequivocally, that the United States will not accept further Soviet aggres-

sion. I was fearful—despite the Administration's tough talk — that this message may have been lost due to zig zags in the Administration's foreign policy.

For instance, the Administration lifted the American grain embargo against the Soviet Union last April, even though the Soviets still are occupying Afghanistan with 85,000 troops. The embargo—which had taken a toll on the Soviet economy—had been imposed more than a year earlier as a direct result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

This summer, the Administration warned our European allies against purchasing Soviet natural gas, but then gave the go-ahead to an American corporation to sell pipe-laying equipment to the Soviet Union.

The Administration's approval of this equipment sale was finalized after the U.S. had pressured the Japanese to refrain from selling pipe-laying equipment to the Soviets for the same gas project.

Later, the Administration refused to sell surplus butter to the Soviet Union, but then extended a long-term agreement for selling grain to the Soviets.

The Senate's action sends an appropriate message that the Congress will support economic reprisals—a total trade ban — against the Soviet Union if it invades Poland. The Soviets must be put on notice that further aggressive behavior will not go unpunished.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Questionnaire Results

A majority of the more than 13,000 West Virginians who responded to my latest questionnaire would be willing to give up part of their tax cut to reduce the federal deficit.

Although responses to my questionnaire — which was included in my October newsletter — are still coming in, the latest tabulation shows that 58 percent of those persons answering would favor repeal of the third year of the Administration's tax-cut package in 1984 to reduce the federal deficit.

In response to other questions, West Virginians generally opposed proposed spending cuts in federal programs that would occur due to the Administration's second round of budget reductions presented in September — totaling \$13 billion — for the 1982 fiscal year.

The results of this poll — which I believe are representative of the state as a whole — show that most West Virginians believe that substantial cuts already have been made in most federal programs, and they oppose further cuts, generally.

Sixty-eight percent of the persons responding to the questionnaire said they opposed the Administration's September proposal for an additional 12-percent across-the-board cut in non-defense discretionary programs, such as highways, health research, school lunch, Am-

trak, bridge replacement, flood prevention, and education for the handicapped and disadvantaged.

On another question, only 26 percent of the respondents said they favored the Administration's proposed cuts in entitlement programs, which could affect black lung payments, veterans' benefits, federal pensions, railroad retirement benefits, and supplemental security income (SSI) for the blind and disabled.

Sixty-three percent of the persons responding to the poll said they opposed the Administration's proposed \$13 billion in budget cuts for the Department of Defense over the next three years, with 37 percent of the respondents favoring the proposed spending reduction.

The Administration's proposed elimination of the Department of Energy and the Department of Education drew negative responses of 54 and 55 percent, respectively.

Only 41 percent said they favored — and 59 percent opposed — a cut in revenue-sharing funds for cities and counties for the 1982 fiscal year, and a gradual phase-out of the program over the next two years, as was being considered by the Administration.

Sixty-six percent of West Virginians responding to my questionnaire said they favored re-institution of the military draft, with 34 percent against it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Initiatives for Peace

I commend President Reagan for his recent peace initiatives that called for resumption of strategic arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union and a limitation of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

These initiatives represent a realistic and practical approach for the United States and the Soviet Union to pursue the reduction of both nuclear and conventional armaments—a goal that would not only benefit the two superpowers, but the rest of the world as well.

The President forcefully and directly called upon Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev to engage in Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) in January.

In addition, the President offered a proposal whereby the United States would abandon its plans to deploy 572 new cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe if the Soviets would dismantle the 600 SS-20, SS-4, and SS-5 medium- and intermediate-range missiles they have aimed at Europe.

Despite the Soviet claims that they are pursuing peace, the Soviets have been deploying medium-range ballistic missiles at the rate of one SS-20 per week, primarily aimed at Europe. At the same time, the Soviet Union has been engaged in a propaganda campaign designed to divide the NATO alliance and inject the fear that Europe will become a battleground for the superpowers.

Despite the imbalance

that has resulted due to the Soviets' continuing buildup of missiles in Eastern Europe, the United States and NATO have not introduced more nuclear weaponry into the European theater. We have, however, made plans to put into place additional missiles beginning in 1983 if the Soviets do not reduce their weaponry.

The President's proposal represents an equitable solution for both the Soviets and the United States. The President has my wholehearted support on this initiative.

If, however, the Soviets cannot be persuaded to reduce their weapons in the European theater, then the President has my complete support in adhering to our plans for deploying additional missiles to counter the growing Soviet strength in Europe. If the Soviets refuse to negotiate arms reduction, then there is no other alternative but to go forward with our missile deployment schedule in Europe.

I also support the President's call for a reduction in NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional forces throughout Europe, and his renewal of the U.S. proposal for an international conference to reduce the risk of surprise attacks or of a war arising from miscalculation.

It is incumbent upon the superpowers to take steps to reduce the threat of nuclear war. I strongly support the President in this endeavor and hope that the Soviets will respond to his peace overtures.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Backbone of Our Economy

America's small business community — which has come under enormous pressure from high interest rates—should have a voice in determining our nation's economic policies.

To insure a fair representation of this broad segment of our population, I recently offered an amendment on the Senate floor directing the President to appoint a small business representative to the Federal Reserve Board — the policies of which help determine the level of interest rates and the availability of credit.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority in the Senate weakened the language in my amendment so that the Senate is merely on record as urging such an appointment, but the President is not legally bound to do so.

Passage of my original amendment, however, would have required the President to appoint an individual whose background is "in a credit-sensitive sector of the economy, and who is representative of small business, including farming and agriculture."

Indeed, the Act creating the Board in 1913 originally intended a broad representation of America's diverse interests. The law stated that a fair representation

of financial, agricultural, industrial, and commercial interests be considered when a Presidential appointment to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board is made.

To the small businessman, the fact that 15,500 small businesses have collapsed this year—an increase of nearly 50 percent over 1980—is not simply a statistic among other economic data. The small businessman knows the struggles and the heartbreaks endured by those who find their companies failing due to economic conditions. And likewise, he knows that the hopes and needs of the nine million unemployed workers across the nation are similar to those of his own employees.

Small business is not a "special interest" within our economy. Small business accounts for 53 percent of our nation's gross national product and 70 percent of all new jobs. It is the backbone of our economy.

Small business should be given a fair representation on the Federal Reserve Board—an individual who can understand and sympathize with the needs of borrowers, the small entrepreneur who is struggling to stay in business, and the worker who is trying to hold onto his job.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rebuilding Our Navy

The U.S. Senate recently adopted my amendment calling for the systematic buildup of our American Navy—including the goal of having 600 active ships by the turn of the century—to counter the growing Soviet strength at sea.

Unfortunately, our shipbuilding capacity has diminished over the years and our fighting Naval forces have decreased steadily. Today the United States has about 450 active Naval vessels, down significantly from our inventory a decade ago of about 700 ships.

At the same time, the Soviet Union—which has an inventory of about 1,000 combatant ships—has been steadily increasing its shipbuilding capacity, and is producing twice as many submarines each year than does the United States.

That is not to say that the Soviets are superior to the United States at sea. The Soviet Union, for instance, has not built the formidable aircraft carriers that our Navy possesses, and the United States has better than a two-to-one advantage in total tonnage.

But there is an unmistakable and dangerous trend of closing the gap between the naval strength of the two superpowers, putting our former narrow margin of superiority in jeopardy.

It had earlier been generally agreed upon by the Administration and Navy officials that a 600-ship Navy would well serve the security needs of the United States.

Passage of my amendment puts the Senate on

record as supporting the achievement of this goal by the year 2000, allowing for flexibility due to new designs of ships and specific details of our Naval missions as they evolve to meet new contingencies.

My amendment also calls upon the Secretary of Defense to outline, in detail, the Administration's five-year Naval ship construction and conversion program in accordance with its proposed budget. For Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to achieve our Naval goals, members should be apprised of the details of the Administration's long-range plans.

Under the 1977 Department of Defense Authorization Act, the Administration is required to make available to Congress its Naval plan each year, but thus far, it has not complied. Without such a plan, Congress does not have any real concept of what kind of Navy this Administration is contemplating.

Unmatched Naval forces for the United States are not a luxury. We are a semi-island nation, and most of our principal allies in the NATO alliance all lie across the Atlantic Ocean. We have vital commitments in the Far East, and we are trying to establish a viable Naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

The United States cannot afford to become vulnerable at sea. For the security of America, and of the Free World, we must start now to plan and build new ships and increase our Naval strength to protect us in the year 2000.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Safety in the Mines

The recent rash of mining accidents demonstrates the need for continual efforts to monitor the safety and health conditions of our mines.

In a period of only five days, 24 coal miners died in mining accidents—three killed when a tunnel roof collapsed at Bergoo, West Virginia; eight miners killed in an explosion at Topmost, Kentucky; and 13 miners killed in another explosion near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

As of mid-December, a total of 143 miners had died this year in accidents at their mine sites.

While these tragic accidents were occurring, the Administration sought funding reductions in the inspection program that is designed to protect the safety and health of miners.

In September, the Administration proposed a 12 percent cut in this year's budget for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). I fought the Administration's proposed cutback and other proposals to slash funds from this

program.

The Senate Appropriations Committee adopted my amendment preserving a \$155 million budget for MSHA in 1982, a modest increase over its \$153 million funding level in 1981.

Due to a second round of Administration budget cuts, however, MSHA's budget was reduced to \$147 million under a temporary funding procedure to operate government agencies through March 31, 1982.

Because this amount represented a \$6 million cut from MSHA's 1981 budget, I offered an amendment on the Senate floor to restore these funds. Unfortunately, it was defeated on a party-line roll-call vote.

It is tragic, indeed shameful, that the safety and health enforcement program for our miners be reduced at a time when our nation is relying more and more on them to provide increased energy supplies.

The safety and health of the several hundred thousands of individuals who labor in our nation's mines must not be sacrificed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Libyan Oil Imports

The possibility that the U.S. will cut off imports of Libyan oil due to that country's support of terrorist activities emphasizes the need for revitalization of our nation's comprehensive energy policy.

Libya is known worldwide as international terrorism's number one supporter—encouraging assassinations, chaos, hijackings, mayhem, and the murder of innocent civilians around the world.

Despite this record of fostering terrorism, the United States continues to receive about 8 percent of its oil imports from Libya—an amount comparable to our Iranian oil imports when the Shah fell.

Unfortunately, the United States today enjoys the flexibility of seriously considering the cut-off of Libyan oil imports *only* because of a current and temporary worldwide oil glut.

Without this unusual abundance of energy supplies, any contemplation of halting Libyan oil imports would be flirting with a possible replay of the U.S. oil shortage of 1979—complete with gasoline lines, transportation paralysis, and widespread economic consequences.

When this oil oversupply vanishes, the U.S. will lose

the option of taking independent action in the foreign policy arena because we lack any ready and abundant petroleum replacements and a sound energy fallback position.

The national energy policy that was supported by the past three Administrations and put into place with bi-partisan backing in the Congress, has been abandoned by the current Administration. Our country is left without any energy insurance—leaving our foreign-policy decisions dependent upon the current state of energy supplies.

Our world actions should not be subject to energy-market flukes and oil-supply caprice. Instead, we should resume progress toward hammering out a comprehensive national energy program.

I urge the current Administration to mount such a revitalized national energy program, to give the United States foreign-policy flexibility by design, and not just by accident.

Until we have such a program, energy will remain our national Achilles' heel, and we will seldom have the luxury of making foreign-policy decisions without considering how they will affect our foreign-oil supplies.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Response To the Polish Crisis

Because the Soviets must be held accountable for their role in the repression of the Polish people, the imposition of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union is a direct and appropriate response from the United States.

I support the sanctions enacted recently by President Reagan against the Soviet Union, which included the suspension of U.S. exports of high technology, and the postponement of U.S.-Soviet negotiations for a long-term grain sale agreement.

The Soviet Union had a hand in imposing martial law in Poland apparently because the uprising of 10 million industrial workers—through the trade-union Solidarity—posed a threat to the doctrines of communism, an ideology that is supposedly dedicated to the cause of the worker.

The repression of human rights in a nation whose people yearn so much for freedom cannot be ignored.

Unfortunately, however, the Administration last spring prematurely lifted the American grain embargo that had been enforced against the Soviets for their brutal invasion of Afghanistan. Although the embargo was removed—and without any quid pro quo from the Soviets—Afghanistan continues under Soviet military control through

the presence of 90,000 Soviet troops there.

Perhaps the Soviet Union would not have acted so hastily in Poland if it had realized that there would be a heavy price to pay—such as banning the sale of badly-needed American grain.

Because of a Soviet food shortage and a poor grain harvest, the grain embargo had an adverse impact on the Soviet economy. The Administration, however, made the mistake of lifting the embargo without getting any assurances from the Soviets that their aggressive behavior would be modified. This time, if only for credibility of the United States, we must make these sanctions stick.

We Americans, who cherish our freedom so dearly, must lend our moral and economic support to the cause of the Polish people, who seek only the right to control their own destiny.

I support and encourage the continued shipment of food and medical supplies, not to the Polish Government but to the Polish people through private organizations.

I hope that these efforts by the United States will help encourage the Soviet Union and the Polish military junta to seek a political solution to this crisis, avoiding further bloodshed and tyranny.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Sound Military Precaution

I commend President Reagan on his decision to maintain military registration for 18-year-old men as a precautionary step that will pay dividends in the event of a national or military emergency.

The mandatory registration of young men adds to our country's military preparedness by providing a pool of readily-available backup manpower.

Although President Reagan made an ill-advised campaign promise to end military registration, I urged him — upon his assuming office — to continue registration and applaud his decision to do so.

At a time when there is a potentially-explosive situation in Poland, and an estimated 90,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan, cancellation of U.S. military registration would send a signal of weakness and lack of resolve on the part of the United States.

I have consistently supported military registration as a sound military precaution to improve our country's state of readiness in a sometimes dangerous and often unpredictable world. The registration of our young men now could save

our nation up to six weeks' time in responding to a national crisis.

Under compulsory registration, all men must register within 30 days of their 18th birthdays. They can comply by filling out a short form at any Post Office or Selective Service Office.

Registration, however, does not imply reactivation of the military draft. Only Congress has the authority to mandate military conscription.

A peacetime draft existed in our nation from 1948 to 1973, during which time young men could be inducted into the military services to augment our volunteer forces. Although the draft ended in 1973, military registration remained in effect until it was suspended by President Ford on April 1, 1975.

President Carter reinstated registration in July 1980—partially in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Our nation must be equipped to mobilize quickly and efficiently in response to a national emergency. We can ill afford to wait until a crisis strikes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recharging the Economy

The number one priority facing our nation today is to mobilize our economy and to put people back to work.

Although the rate of inflation has moderated in the last few months, a volume of economic statistics portrays the dismal state of the economy:

—8.9 percent of our workforce now is unemployed, meaning that nine and one-half million people are out of jobs. In addition, the highest percentage of adult men are out of work since World War II;

—high interest rates of 16, 17, and 18 percent are preventing 95 percent of the American people from purchasing homes;

—during the past year, 17,000 small businesses — the most innovative sector and the richest source of jobs in our economy — were forced into bankruptcy; and

—housing starts in 1981 plunged to a 35-year low, with a backlog of more than 300,000 new single-family homes and more than five million previously-occupied homes sitting on the market.

These deplorable conditions—which are taking a severe toll on the lives of Americans across the nation — are the result of the Administration's high-interest rate and tight-money supply policies.

These Administration pol-

icies must be changed; their cost is too high.

First and foremost, the Administration should apply pressure on the Federal Reserve Board to refrain from further tightening of the money supply.

Emergency measures are needed to bring the housing industry — long considered the bellwether of our nation's general economic health — out of its devastating slump.

I oppose the Administration's proposal to slash federal Housing Administration Mortgage Assistance by \$11 billion in 1983. I also believe it would be wrong to phase out the Government National Mortgage Association — known as "Ginnie Mae" — as has been suggested.

Such anti-housing proposals are false economies that will only hurt middle-income and other wage-earning American families. In West Virginia, federal mortgage assistance has made home ownership possible for thousands of veterans, moderate-income people, and rural families.

It is time for some common-sense proposals to recharge our sluggish economy. We need to take steps now so that business can invest in plant modernization, automobile dealers can sell cars, able-bodied people can earn decent wages, and average Americans can buy homes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sending the Wrong Signal

At a time when millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet, it is regrettable that Congress approved special tax breaks for living expenses for members of Congress.

I have co-sponsored legislation to repeal the tax deduction because I do not believe Congress should be in the business of voting itself special favors from the Internal Revenue Service.

The legislation, which I opposed, was introduced by Senator Robert Dole and it removes the \$3,000 ceiling on business deductions that members of Congress have been able to take for the past 30 years, and leaves in its stead provisions that greatly increase the amount of allowable tax deductions for members of Congress.

A provision in the legislation directs the Internal Revenue Service to prescribe an appropriate amount of business deductions that can be claimed by members of Congress each day they are in legislative session. These tax breaks are retroactive to tax year 1981.

Rising unemployment and

a high rate of inflation have combined to cause severe economic hardships for many Americans. Rather than seeking special tax breaks, Congress should be in the forefront of the battle to cut wasteful federal spending.

In fiscal year 1981, passage of two of my amendments saved American taxpayers \$115 million in reduced government operating costs. One of my amendments blocked the automatic cost-of-living pay raise for high-level government employees, including members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. My second amendment cut Senate operating funds by 10 percent.

In today's hard economic times, government must recognize the need to curtail costs where it can. The special tax break Congress enacted sends the wrong signal to Americans, and it should be repealed.

Those who write tax legislation should not be exempted from the laws they enact.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

World Coal Trade

The absence of a meaningful coal export policy by the current Administration jeopardizes our nation's trade position and could seriously impair the future of American coal as an international energy resource.

Unfortunately, after more than one year in office, the Administration has failed to endorse policies that would encourage the development of our nation's coal, which is a convenient alternative to foreign oil.

Past initiatives to increase domestic coal production, improve the necessary transportation infrastructure, and establish a political climate that would be reassuring to coal-importing nations have been abandoned. Consequently, all the momentum that had been building toward an articulated and meaningful coal export policy has been lost.

For example, the deepening of America's harbors to allow entry of new colliers of 150,000 tons or more is considered essential for the American coal industry to develop its export market to its full potential. The larger ships are expected to offer a 30-to-50 percent transportation-cost advantage over older, smaller ships, thus making American coal a more economically-attractive source of energy.

The Administration, however, has endorsed legislation that would require port authorities to privately finance 100 percent of the costs of dredging harbors to greater depths, without any

federal government support. Such an approach reflects a complete reversal of policies that have guided waterway development for the last 150 years.

Because port improvements would generate benefits to broad regions of the country, and to the nation's economy as a whole, the federal government has a responsibility to help initiate and complete the deepening of our harbors.

West Virginia is a case in point. Although our state has no deep-water ports, improvements to harbors elsewhere in the country would assist in the transportation of West Virginia coal to export markets. In 1980, West Virginia produced 44.1 million tons of coal for exports—almost 50 percent of all coal exported.

Any increase in West Virginia's coal exports, of course, would translate into additional jobs and added revenue paid in state and local taxes.

Coal now supplies more than 25 percent of the world's energy needs. During the next 20 years, coal will supply one-half to two-thirds of the additional energy required worldwide.

Such expansion of the world coal trade holds great potential for the health of our economy and for our balance of trade. But to take advantage of this potential, the U.S. needs a well-focused and defined government role in coal export policy—one that includes the deepening of our harbors.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

International Terrorism

Despite the recent increase in attacks by terrorist groups against targets in the United States, our nation cannot be held hostage to international terrorism and must be steadfast in its resistance to such illegal acts.

Although it has been more than a year since America's 52 hostages were released from captivity following seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Iran, terrorist attacks against U.S. targets have not abated.

Most recently, Army Lt. Col. Charles Ray, an American military attache stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, was assassinated outside his home. The Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction took credit for the dastardly act.

In December of last year, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Dozier, deputy commander of the NATO military base at Verona, Italy, was kidnaped by four men from his apartment. The Red Brigades, an ultra-left Italian terrorist group, have claimed responsibility.

According to the most recent CIA study, there were 6,714 terrorist incidents around the world between 1968 and 1980, with 112 terrorist attacks directed against U.S. diplomats in 1980.

The CIA report said international terrorists have tended to strike at targets in industrialized democracies, attacking symbols of Western power. Bombings have been the preferred form of terrorist attack, and assassinations have increased steadily since 1975, with their number having doubled in 1980 over 1979.

Although it is difficult to determine which nations

have lent support to terrorism, the U.S. State Department, some scholars, and journalists claim evidence that the Soviet Union has trained, funded, and equipped terrorist organizations for the purpose of destabilizing the West and the Third World.

Libya, according to the CIA, has lent aid to almost every major international terrorist group, and recently trained five terrorists to assassinate high-ranking American government officials. South Yemen, Iraq, and Syria also have been said to assist terrorist factions.

I support efforts taken by the Administration to quell terrorism, including the State Department's creation of an interdepartmental group on terrorism that focuses on embassy security, contingency planning for dealing with terrorist incidents, and training on hostage survival, bomb recognition, and residential security.

In addition, the U.S. must increase its intelligence efforts to uncover terrorist activities, and foster active cooperation with foreign government law enforcement authorities.

The United States cannot concede to terrorist blackmail. To do so would be weak, and it would only encourage these unfortunate incidents.

The United States clearly must increase its efforts to protect its personnel and citizens from terrorist attacks, and encourage international cooperation to thwart terrorism across the globe. A strong stance against international outlaws is essential for our own national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MAR 3 1982

Support American Steel

During a recent trip to the Northern Panhandle, I heard firsthand of the injury being suffered by our American steel industry as a result of the increasing tonnage of subsidized foreign steel coming into our country.

In Weirton, nearly 3,000 employees of Weirton Steel—almost a quarter of its workforce—have lost their jobs. Nationwide, nearly 76,000 American steelworkers are unemployed.

Recently, I testified before the International Trade Commission in support of limiting foreign steel imports in order to give our domestic steel industry a chance to compete fairly and equally with its subsidized foreign rivals.

The subsidies that foreign governments pay their steel companies—ranging from \$120 per ton in Germany, to an astonishing \$533 per ton in the United Kingdom—give foreign producers an unfair price advantage that distorts our domestic free market.

As foreign steel imports have surged—they now represent 20 percent of our domestic steel market, up from 15 percent just since the spring of 1981—American steel operations have fallen to 55 percent of capacity.

The decline of our steel industry also has had an adverse impact on our metallurgical-coal producing mines. Because metallurgical coal is essential to steel production, the downturn in the industry has resulted in the closing of mines and a loss of jobs.

Excessive foreign steel imports not only hurt American steelworkers, coal miners and their families, but they also threaten our national security efforts.

Already, the United States is the only major country in the world that cannot produce enough steel to meet its maximum annual demands. If we give up increasingly larger portions of our domestic steel market to foreign suppliers, we face the possibility of being unable to make up the lost tonnage in the event of a national emergency.

The time is long overdue to stop helping foreign steel companies and foreign steelworkers by allowing their subsidized steel to flood into our country in ever-increasing amounts.

Once and for all, let us give American steel a fair break, and let us give our steelworkers and coal miners a chance to show the kind of job they can do in a fair market.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Repaying Our Veterans

Our nation is indebted to the millions of American veterans who have risked their lives in the defense of our country.

We have sought to repay that debt by providing benefits to those veterans who have so ably served. Though some of the benefits are small in monetary value, they are an important way of reminding veterans that our country has not forgotten them.

One modest benefit that traditionally has been available to all honorably discharged, war-time veterans is the burial allowance. Though the \$300 benefit often does not cover all funeral expenses, for indigent veterans it can be the difference between a dignified burial and a pauper's grave.

Last year, nearly 361,500 veterans received the burial allowance, including more than 3,200 in the State of West Virginia. A change in eligibility requirements enacted as a cost-saving measure, however, has greatly decreased the number of veterans who can qualify for the benefit. Under the new rules, which went into effect on October 1, 1981, only veterans who are receiving, or are eligible to receive, VA pensions can

qualify for the allowance.

The reduction of the burial benefit was a misguided effort to achieve small cost-savings, and I have co-sponsored legislation to restore it for all honorably discharged veterans who have served our country during war-time, including the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts.

The small savings realized by changing the eligibility requirements is not ample justification for renegeing on a promise and stripping away a decent burial for many of our veterans.

It is a national disgrace that the bodies of dozens of indigent veterans have accumulated in the nation's morgues for lack of adequate burial funds. These veterans should not be denied the dignity of a proper burial simply because they were not collecting a VA pension, and state and local governments should not be forced to foot the financial burden of burial.

The denial of burial benefits to an estimated two-thirds of our veterans is an injustice to the men and women who have served our country. The burial allowance should be fully restored at once.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Key to Recovery

A healthy, prosperous national housing industry is crucial if we are to achieve any sustained economic recovery program.

Between 25 and 35 percent of our gross national product can be attributed to the housing-related industry, and millions of Americans work in housing-related jobs.

Unfortunately, our housing industry is suffering from a severe state of depression — the worst we have seen in more than 35 years. Last year, the poor showing of the industry cost our country 2.1 million jobs and \$108 billion in lost output.

The Administration has responded to this housing depression by proposing a 112 percent cut in fiscal 1983 federal housing assistance.

We cannot afford to abandon our housing industry and our homeowners at this crucial hour, and I have urged my Senate colleagues to join with me in opposing any further cuts in our federal housing programs.

Money spent on housing is productive to our economy. It builds capital investment, and it puts Americans back to work.

The Administration has proposed drastic cuts for and eventual elimination of Ginnie Mae — the Government National Mortgage Association — which buys nearly three-quarters of the

mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Veterans Administration (VA).

To put this into perspective, during the 1980 recession FHA and VA loans financed 22 percent of all new homes built or sold. Since 1934, more than 27 million Americans have used these programs. Without Ginnie Mae, the FHA and VA housing programs would be crippled and destroyed.

Nearly 95 percent of American families cannot afford to purchase an average-priced home, and last year, housing starts hit their lowest level since World War II, with only 4.7 starts for every 1,000 people. In West Virginia, the number of housing units constructed during 1981 fell to 3,000, from a high in 1978 of 9,500. This is a drop of nearly 69 percent.

If these trends continue, the American dream of home ownership will never be realized by most of the 41 million Americans who will turn 30 during the next decade and who do not own a home.

If our nation's housing effort is abandoned now, it will cost our country dearly. Not only will we leave our housing industry, our homeowners, and our potential homeowners without a future, but we will also be running the risk of breaking the back of our entire economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Watchdog for Defense

It is my strong belief that we must increase our country's defense capabilities.

I have an equally strong belief, however, that our current economic difficulties dictate that every federal dollar spent—including our defense dollars—must be spent wisely.

There is no room for waste in our federal budget—especially when we consider that additional cuts must be made in the non-defense portions of the budget and record deficits must be pared—and the Pentagon must not be considered sacrosanct.

One method of ferreting out possible waste and mismanagement in the Pentagon is to create an independent inspector general for that department, and I have recently co-sponsored legislation to create such a position.

Most federal agencies and departments have an independent inspector general to monitor spending and to insure that funds are being properly used.

With the large portion of the federal budget that is allocated to our defense effort, it does not make sense that the Pentagon does not have this essential watchdog.

A truly independent inspector general, with sufficient power to monitor, audit, evaluate, and review our massive defense appropriations, would be a valuable contribution to our defense effort.

A strong national defense posture is our country's best guarantee of maintaining peace.

Congressional approval last year of the largest defense budget in our history, and the Administration's proposal this year that we again increase defense spending—to approximately a quarter of a trillion dollars—is a clear indication that the challenge posed by the Soviet defense build-up will not go unmet.

Our current defense budget addresses certain important aspects of our strategic posture that have been neglected too long, such as conventional weapons systems and maritime supremacy.

But cost overruns have become a fact of life for the Pentagon, and an inspector general for that agency would give us the tool we need to make certain our defense dollars are being spent in the most cost-effective manner.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Developing Economic Alternatives

The deplorable state of our nation's economy makes it imperative that Congress search for economic alternatives and develop a comprehensive proposal for national recovery.

To achieve these objectives, I recently formed a task force of 18 U.S. Senators—which I chair—and we have been developing budget alternatives to improve our current economic difficulties.

We have made some preliminary recommendations to the Administration—recommendations that could save \$100 billion—and we have pledged our cooperation in working with the Administration to break our current budget deadlock and develop a viable economic alternative.

We have asked the Administration to carefully scrutinize the federal budget—including the Pentagon budget—for possible waste, fraud, and abuse. We have also asked the Administration to consider deferring the third year of the Kemp-Roth personal tax cut and tax indexing, and modifying the leasing provisions of the 1981 tax cut.

I believe our current budget

difficulties can be attributed to the clash of large budget deficits and tight-money policies, which have driven up interest rates and prevented businesses from expanding and adding new jobs.

The goal of my task force will be to develop economic alternatives that would bring down interest rates, assist the slumping housing market, and cut back unacceptable budget deficits in order to achieve our first priority—putting Americans back to work.

Our national unemployment rate now stands at 8.8 percent, which means that more than 9.5 million American workers are without jobs. In West Virginia, our unemployment rate is 13 percent—the fourth highest in the nation, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This is an unacceptable situation. If we are going to make any headway with our current economic problems, we are going to have to invest in our human capital and make certain that American workers are on their jobs once again and that American businesses are again thriving.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Discussion With the President

President Reagan came to my office recently to discuss our country's critical economic problems, and I expressed to him my deep concern that West Virginians were being particularly hard-hit.

I told the President that I had been travelling extensively throughout West Virginia, and that I had seen the serious impact of our economic downturn.

I said I was especially concerned about the severe unemployment in West Virginia, which has reached 13 percent according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The President listened as I described my recent visits to West Virginia steel companies, and I told him of the critical situation at Weirton Steel, where nearly a quarter of that company's workforce has been laid off.

The President agreed with my request that he meet with a group from Weirton Steel to discuss that company's financial difficulties, and a preliminary meeting was held recently at the White House with Weirton Steel representatives and one of the President's assistants.

I also expressed my very deep concern to the President that our nation is facing a political deadlock on the economy. I told him we have only one economy in our country—not Republican or Democratic, but an American economy.

The President received my assurance that Congress stands

ready to give his proposals responsible consideration—and to develop alternative proposals—in an effort to forge a program that can help put this nation back on the road to economic recovery.

Following my visit with the President, I wrote him a letter, unanimously agreed to by the Senate Democratic Conference, about our disturbing budget outlook.

I pointed out that unless swift and effective action is taken to reduce our budget deficits, we will face continued recession, high unemployment, record business failures, and the possible collapse of our housing industry.

I asked the President to consider the following four proposals in searching for a viable economic alternative:

- Scrutinize all parts of the federal budget, including the Pentagon budget, to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, to improve management, and to explore all areas of potential savings;
- Consider deferring the third year of the 1981 Kemp-Roth personal tax cut;
- Consider deferring indexing of the tax code;
- Consider significantly modifying the leasing provision of the 1981 tax cut and closing other tax loopholes.

In short, I told the President we want to work together to make an immediate mid-course correction in our economic plan in order to restore a healthy national economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Conversation With Volcker

Recently, I spent an hour in my office with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker discussing the devastating effect our high interest rates are having on West Virginia and the nation.

The Federal Reserve Board has been pursuing a tight-money policy, which means it has been restricting the supply of money available to businesses and consumers. When the money supply is restricted, lending institutions can charge higher interest rates to those individuals and businesses who want to borrow money.

I told Mr. Volcker that these high interest rates—and the havoc they wreak on our economy—have contributed to West Virginia's deplorable unemployment rate. At 13 percent, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, we have the fourth highest unemployment rate in the nation.

I pointed out to Mr. Volcker that mortgage interest rates of 17 percent or more have made homeownership an impossibility for many young West Virginians, who cannot afford the large monthly payments that accompany high interest rates.

I told Mr. Volcker about the serious impact that high interest rates were having on West Virginia's businesses. In my recent trips across West Virginia, I have seen job losses and operation cutbacks in many communities such as Fairmont, Ravenswood, Clarksburg, and Weirton.

The impact of high interest rates on businesses has been felt across America. Nationwide, 50 percent more businesses have gone bankrupt so far this year than during a comparable period in 1981, and 134 percent higher than during the same period in 1980.

High interest rates have also sent the automobile industry into a tailspin. Many potential buyers have been discouraged from purchasing new automobiles, and as a result sales nationwide plunged nearly 32 percent—even with rebates offered by the five U.S. automakers—during the first ten days in March from what they had been during the same period in 1981.

In my discussion with Mr. Volcker, I was encouraged that he is of the opinion that Congress is on the right track in attempting to work with the Administration to find solutions to our current economic difficulties.

It was my hope that Mr. Volcker would indicate that the Federal Reserve intended to ease its tight-money policies, but instead he said that these policies will continue under current circumstances.

However, I believe that given the right fiscal policies, coupled with pressure from the Administration, the Federal Reserve Board might be persuaded to ease its tight-money policies and interest rates might then fall to acceptable levels.

That is what we in Congress will be working toward.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fair Trade: A Two-Way Street

The time has come when Americans will no longer tolerate unfair foreign trade practices and foreign subsidies that put our workers out of jobs and our industries at a competitive disadvantage.

That is why I have introduced trade legislation in the United States Senate designed to protect American jobs and help American industry.

West Virginians are particularly aware of the injury caused by unfair foreign trade practices.

In Weirton alone, more than 2,600 steelworkers have been laid off their jobs because of the decline in the American steel industry—a decline that can be traced to the steadily increasing flow of subsidized foreign steel imports coming into our country.

As foreign imports are growing, our own exports are shrinking because of unfair foreign practices and trade barriers that have restricted American access to foreign markets.

This rising tide of export imbalance must be stemmed. I believe the way to do that is to open up foreign markets to U.S. products on a fair and equal basis, and to end unfair foreign competition here at home.

That is the thrust of my trade legislation.

Right now, we have no mandatory mechanism in place to deal with unfair foreign trading practices.

My legislation would provide this mandatory mechanism by requiring the U.S. Trade Representative to submit to the President—within six months of enactment of the legislation—a study of the trading practices of each major U.S. trading partner. This would be a study repeated annually.

Within 60 days after receiving the study, the President would be required to submit it to Congress, along with a proposal for actions that could be taken to counter any unfair trade practices discovered.

The President would also be required to inform any offending trading partner of action that might be taken against it.

After Congress received the study and the President's proposed actions, it would have 60 days in which to report a joint resolution stipulating action the President would take to counter the offending government's unfair trading practices.

Trade is a two-way street, and if other nations expect to sell their products here, they must let us compete fairly in their markets. Our trading partners must know that we demand, and are willing to enforce, equal access to foreign markets.

I believe my legislation is an approach that would promote a healthy world trading system, and one that would protect American industry and the jobs of American workers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Protection of Social Security

For many older Americans, our nation's Social Security system has meant the difference between a dignified retirement and one of destitution.

Millions of Americans depend on their Social Security checks as the sole means of providing for food, shelter, and clothing.

Since Social Security's beginnings in the 1930's, our government has had a commitment to retired Americans and to those who contribute to the system to protect its integrity.

That commitment is as important today as it has been over the past five decades.

But a great number of older Americans have been frightened recently by the assertions of some public officials that budget savings can be realized by cutting Social Security benefits, or by eliminating certain Social Security programs altogether.

We must move toward decreasing our budget deficits and achieving a balanced federal budget, and there are certain areas of the budget that justifiably can be cut to help achieve these goals.

Social Security, however, is not one of those areas. We must not balance the budget by pulling the rug out from under our senior citizens.

One such attempt last year—to eliminate the Social Security minimum benefit—would have affected 3 million Americans who depended in part or in full on the small monthly allotment. For many of those people, the minimum Social Security benefit is the only thing keeping them off the welfare rolls.

I fought against ending those minimum payments, and we were successful in restoring them.

I was also successful, at the end of the first session of the 97th Congress, in securing unanimous approval of a resolution in opposition to the federal taxation of Social Security benefits, another cost-cutting option that had been discussed by the Administration.

This year, I will continue to oppose any efforts to achieve budget savings by cutting Social Security benefits, including any cuts in the cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security retirees.

Congress must not allow the federal budget to be balanced at the expense of those who have contributed to the Social Security system in the expectation that benefits would be there for them when they retired.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Housing Industry Safety Net

The American housing industry and our homeowners are in desperate need of a "safety net" to rescue them from economic disaster.

I have appointed a working group of Senate colleagues to craft such a "safety net" for our housing industry.

By any yardstick, we are in a housing industry emergency.

In 1981, new private home starts and new single-family home sales dropped to the lowest yearly totals on record. More than 5 million previously occupied houses are standing on the market unsold.

Millions of people in the housing industry and in industries tied to housing—such as carpeting, appliances, lumber, furniture, textiles, and so forth—are out of work or threatened with unemployment.

The lives of millions of other Americans are being disrupted because they cannot sell their current homes, cannot move their families to new job locations, and could not afford to buy another house in a new location in any case.

For these Americans who depend—in one way or another—on the housing industry, we must offer hope that the industry can and will be rescued from its abysmal decline.

The plan that my Senate Housing Task Force and I have developed could create an estimated 867,000 jobs, could provide for the construction of an estimated 600,000 new homes, and could help 100,000 Americans stave off

foreclosure on their home or farm mortgages.

It has several basic provisions.

First, it would provide federal mortgage assistance to moderate income homebuyers by offering mortgages at four percentage points below the going Federal Housing Administration (FHA) rate.

This could save the average homebuyer several hundred dollars a month, enough to allow many people to qualify for loans who could not now do so. The government would recover its investment when the homeowners sold their homes or refinanced them.

Our plan would also offer downpayment *loans* of up to \$5,000 for first-time homebuyers, provided the prospective purchaser could match the loan with equal funds.

Our proposal would help prevent loan defaults by homeowners who have been thrown out of work. *Repayable loans* equal to 21 monthly mortgage payments would be available to those facing foreclosure because of involuntary unemployment.

Finally, our proposal would help people facing default on mortgages of family-owned farms by deferring monthly payments and placing a moratorium on foreclosure.

A plan of this nature would offer a much-needed "safety net" to the millions of Americans whose lives are affected by the current decline of our housing industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Employee Ownership: Hope For American Industry

At a time when many of our nation's companies are being forced to lay-off employees or shut down altogether, the growing number of successful employee-owned companies is offering hope that American industries can survive our hard economic times.

Nationwide, nearly 5,000 businesses are operating under some type of employee ownership, which has proved to be an attractive alternative to company closings and massive job losses.

Take the situation at Weirton Steel, for example.

Faced with the possibility that the Weirton Steel facility would have to close entirely, the employees and management of the company have elected to try to buy the plant, using an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP).

Over the past decade, Congress has enacted more than a dozen different pieces of legislation to encourage the use of ESOP's. Such a plan allows a corporation's employees to receive shares of the company's stock without requiring them to put up their own money for it.

A number of studies have shown that companies with employee ownership tend to be more productive and profitable—the result, no doubt, of giving the employees a bigger stake in the company's success and a larger share of the profits.

In New Jersey, for instance, a General Motors ball-bearing plant was purchased by its employees last year using an ESOP, and the company reports its productivity has increased by 80 percent. The employee takeover saved the

jobs of more than 900 workers.

Similar employee ownership successes have been achieved by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, the Denver Yellow Cab Company, and E Systems, a large Dallas company, to name a few.

If Weirton Steel's ESOP is successful—and I am hopeful that it will be—it will be the nation's largest worker takeover.

In several meetings I have had with the Weirton Steel labor and management group—both in Weirton and in Washington—I have been impressed by its resolve to set up a successful ESOP.

The Senate Finance Committee's employee stock ownership expert, who at my request recently travelled to Weirton to meet with and advise the group, has told me that he believes the Weirton plan has a reasonable chance of success.

I have introduced legislation to stretch out the time period in which the company must comply with the Clean Air Act, which has been one of Weirton Steel's stumbling blocks, and I have advised the Weirton group that I stand ready to assist in any other way that might help them achieve their goal.

A successful employee takeover of Weirton Steel would be tremendously beneficial to the Weirton employees, the community in which they live, and the entire surrounding area.

In a larger sense, it would offer further encouragement to workers and industries nationwide that employee ownership is a viable method of preventing business failures and job losses.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voluntary School Prayer

President Reagan—in recently proposing a constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayer in our public schools—has joined the fight to provide our school children with a few minutes each day for quiet meditation.

I believe our children deserve the opportunity to take a moment for spiritual reflection in their school day if they so desire.

Unfortunately, a series of U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the 1960's have prompted considerable controversy surrounding this issue.

Our nation's founding fathers, who readily acknowledged the role of religion in the birth of our country, wrote in our Constitution's First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . . ."

Their purpose was to encourage the unfettered growth of religious faith without allowing one particular religious group to use the power of the state to gain special advantages.

With that understanding in mind, I have consistently supported legislation to permit voluntary school prayer, and I have several times co-sponsored or supported constitutional amendments for that purpose.

As recently as last year, for instance, I voted to include language in the 1982 Justice Department Appropriation bill that would have prohibited the use of federal funds to prevent voluntary prayer in public schools. Though the legislation was approved by the Senate, it did not receive final Congressional approval.

Prior to that, in 1979, the Senate approved my amendment which, in essence, reflected support of voluntary prayer in public schools. The legislation failed to receive House approval.

President Reagan's statements on school prayer demonstrate his understanding of the importance of allowing our public school children the option of taking time for private prayer or for personal reflection.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For Small Business

"I want to build homes for West Virginians and to continue to help replace our state's severely substandard housing stock. But I can't afford to build them, and our people cannot afford to buy them.

"...small business men and women throughout this country are being hammered into the ground by a national policy of high interest rates, tight money, and curing inflation through unemployment...."

That was the message a West Virginia businessman carried to Washington recently when he testified, at my request, before the Senate Democratic Task Force on Small Business Recovery.

The West Virginian, a Barbour County home-builder, was one of several small business people who testified before the Task Force, which I set up recently to explore the problems of our nation's small businesses and to develop policies to help them.

He is correct in his observations about small business, and I have heard similar sentiments from many West Virginia business owners.

To give our state's business community more formal input into the development of federal policies, I have asked the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce to set up a group of state business people to provide me with information on West Virginia's economic climate on a regular basis.

Small business has

long been considered the backbone of our economy. An estimated 77 percent of all American businesses are owned by single individuals or by families.

According to the Small Business Administration, nearly one of every two American non-government workers is employed by small business, and these small businesses account for nearly 38 percent of our gross national product.

But our small businesses have been crippled by chronic high interest rates, sagging consumer demand, and a deepening recession, all factors over which they have little or no control.

In past recessions -- when small businesses suffered from decreased sales and lower profits -- at least lower interest rates provided some relief.

But that is not happening in our current recession.

Instead, high interest rates have persisted, causing record numbers of business failures. During the first week of May alone, 530 businesses failed in the U.S., the highest weekly total in 40 years. Almost half of these were small businesses.

Clearly, relief from high interest rates for our nation's foundering small businesses must be forthcoming, and my Senate Task Force will continue working to restore small business to its historic place as America's most productive, most vibrant, and most innovative economic sector.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Toward The Energy Future

The development and use of our domestic coal, oil, and gas means jobs for West Virginians and energy security for America.

That is why I recently co-sponsored a Senate resolution supporting the continued adequate funding of our government's research and development of new fossil fuels technology.

The Administration has proposed an unwise and ill-advised reduction in the fiscal 1983 fossil energy program, a reduction that would represent a precipitous 91 percent cut from the fiscal 1981 funding levels.

My resolution -- which is based on my strong belief that fossil fuels development is essential to our energy future and therefore must be adequately funded -- calls for 1983 spending levels of no less than 1982 levels.

As we West Virginians know, coal is one of our country's most abundant and important natural resources, representing more than 80 percent of our domestic energy reserves. While coal presently supplies about 20 percent of our total energy consumption, in 40 years that is expected to increase to more than 50 percent.

The aggressive development of our domestic coal reserves and other domestic energy and of methods of using this energy cleanly and efficiently is one of our best hopes of escaping the stranglehold of the unstable and unreliable Oil Pro-

ducing Exporting Countries (OPEC) and achieving energy independence.

With this in mind, I have consistently worked to further the government's fossil energy research effort and to expand West Virginia's role in coal, oil, and gas development.

More than two decades ago, for instance, I co-sponsored legislation that created an Office of Coal Research in the Department of the Interior.

The functions of this office were assumed by the Department of Energy in 1979, when I was successful in my effort to create an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Fuels. The first person to serve in that capacity was a West Virginian I recommended, George Fumich, who now serves as Dean of the College of Mineral and Energy Resources at West Virginia University.

But the steady progress that has been made in our fossil energy program over the years has been threatened by the Administration's proposed cuts.

We should be expanding these programs, not cutting them, especially in light of the private sector's inability to actively pursue costly fossil energy research -- the result, I believe, of our high interest rates and the present plentiful supply of oil.

To abandon our federal fossil fuels effort now would not be good for West Virginia, and it would not be in the best interests of America.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving Social Security

West Virginia's older citizens should not be made to bear the burden of cutting our record budget deficits.

That is what could have happened, though, had the Senate approved the Senate Budget Committee's recent recommendation to cut \$40 billion from the social security program over the next three years.

I fought against that ill-conceived "cost-saving" measure by introducing an amendment in the U.S. Senate to block the imposition of the arbitrary and unspecified cuts.

Though my amendment was narrowly defeated, 53 to 45, eventually the majority of the Senate adopted my way of thinking, and the social security cuts were deleted from the fiscal 1983 budget resolution.

During the Senate debate on the proposed cuts, the argument was made that the cuts were necessary to protect the solvency of the social security system.

In fact, there has been considerable discussion in recent years on the health of social security, and a Presidential Commission is

working now to develop recommendations to protect the system's future integrity.

Certainly, we should not be talking about taking \$40 billion out of the pockets of many of the people who can least afford it.

The proposed social security cuts would have been grossly unfair to our older citizens, many of whom depend on the system as their sole means of support.

I agree that our burgeoning budget deficits must be brought under control.

But this must not be done at the expense of the social security program, the medicare program, and other important programs that are necessary to the well-being of West Virginia's retired and elderly population.

I am committed to preserving the social security system, which is so important to older West Virginians, but I do not believe we should be considering any changes to the system until the President's commission presents its recommendations later on this year.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

"No" To New Taxes

Recently, I voted against the Senate Budget Committee's fiscal 1983 budget resolution because it contains \$108 billion in new taxes.

These are taxes that could hurt West Virginians.

The budget proposal could mean that West Virginians would have to pay taxes on their social security benefits, veterans benefits, railroad retirement benefits, workmen's compensation benefits, and black lung payments.

It could mean that our state's coal, oil, and gas industries would have to pay taxes that could hurt their businesses and that could threaten West Virginia jobs and raise the cost of consumer's utility bills.

This proposal could increase the burden of families struck by catastrophic illnesses by denying them tax relief for their overwhelming medical expenses.

And this same budget proposal would make \$18 billion in cuts in the medicare programs for our senior citizens.

In short, these taxes would come out of the pockets of middle and lower income taxpayers,

from our working people, our small business people, our farmers, our retirees -- the very people who are already shouldering an unfair portion of the tax burden.

West Virginians are taxed too much already.

Not only does the Senate budget resolution call for new taxes, but it also would leave us with unacceptably large budget deficits.

The contemplated deficit for fiscal 1983 is \$116 billion -- a figure I believe is an underestimate. The Senate budget resolution projects a \$92 billion deficit in fiscal 1984, and a \$65 billion deficit in fiscal 1985.

The proposal also calls for tremendous public debt levels -- \$1.3 trillion in fiscal 1983, \$1.4 trillion in fiscal 1984, and \$1.5 trillion in fiscal 1985.

Congress should not be voting for record budget deficits, nor should it be seeking to raise taxes in the middle of a recession.

Moreover, it should not be seeking to place those taxes on millions of hard-working Americans who are already suffering because of that recession.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Sound Ruling

Foreign governments are unfairly subsidizing their steel industries.

For months now, I have been telling federal officials that fact, and I have been telling them that these subsidies are costing the jobs of West Virginians and damaging our state's steel producers.

Recently, the Commerce Department issued a preliminary ruling that nine foreign countries are, indeed, unfairly subsidizing their steel industries.

Included in this ruling -- reached after nearly six months of investigating the claims of some of our major steelmakers that unfair subsidization was taking place -- were West Germany, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and South Africa.

I applaud the Commerce Department's action, which confirms what I have been saying all along.

Back in February, I went before the International Trade Commission and described the effect of these unfair foreign subsidies on West Virginia.

I told the Commission about the hundreds of Weirton Steel employees who have been laid off their jobs. I described the rippling effect that these unfair foreign imports have had on West Virginia's steel-sensitive metallurgical coal producing mines, and

how some of our miners were being idled.

Later, I introduced trade legislation in the U.S. Senate that is designed to prevent the type of unfair subsidization that is wreaking havoc on our domestic steel and coal industries.

Though the Commerce Department ruling is only preliminary, with a final determination expected by October 8, it will require importers of covered products to immediately post a cash deposit or bond equal to the estimated subsidy.

If the final determination upholds the preliminary findings, duties on foreign subsidized steel would then be imposed, thereby partially offsetting the advantage that foreign steel producers enjoy over our domestic producers.

I commend the Commerce Department for its ruling, although I believe the subsidies that foreign producers are enjoying are higher than those determined by the Commerce Department.

The ruling is a step in the right direction for West Virginia's steelworkers and producers.

It is well past time that these unfair trading practices by foreign governments -- which have hurt West Virginians -- were stopped, and I will continue to do all I can to protect West Virginia industries and West Virginia jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs For Our Graduates

In 1968, an Academy-award-winning movie called The Graduate appeared.

In a memorable scene, the movie's young hero is drawn aside and given a word of advice: "plastics" -- meaning that plastics was the field in which the graduate should look for work in 1968.

Just as plastics may have been where jobs were in the 1960's, graduates today might get words of advice like "computers", "energy", or "telecommunications."

Labor economists and Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics officials, who have been studying the future of the American job market, predict that technical training in these areas -- and particularly in computers -- might offer the most promising futures for the graduates of 1980's.

With national unemployment at 9.5 percent, West Virginia's high school and college graduates are facing an uncertain -- but not hopeless -- employment picture.

That is why it is so important for young West Virginians to take a close look at where the jobs will be in the future.

This spring, I was honored to address two West Virginia high school graduations -- Mullins High School in Wyoming County and Union High School in Grant County.

I talked with the students about their plans for the future, and I related to them the wisdom of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said, "Make yourself necessary to somebody."

What does "necessary" mean for the graduates of the 1980's?

With our rapid technological advances, workers with technical skills -- in electronics, computers, engineering, mathematics, chemistry, and so forth -- will be needed in ever-increasing numbers.

Take computers, for example. In 1978, there were an estimated 600,000 computers in the United States. That is expected to increase to nearly 1.6 million by 1983, as computers become more affordable and as smaller companies turn to computerization.

This increase will open up hundreds of thousands of jobs for technicians to install and maintain the equipment and for operators to run it.

Energy is another dynamic and promising field that will demand more and more people with technical skills as we continue developing our domestic coal, oil, and gas.

And highly technical skills will be needed for our telecommunications and aerospace industries, both of which are rapidly expanding.

In fact, technological developments, in this decade and beyond, could mean that in most fields of employment -- medical services and health care, education, business, industry, law, government, and so on -- some measure of technical or computer training will be helpful to the graduates of the 80's.

I hope that West Virginia's leaders of tomorrow will take a close look at future job trends before making their all-important career decisions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Welcome Repeal

The Senate and House of Representatives have both acted recently to repeal the special congressional tax break.

That is fair and appropriate.

The special tax deduction -- attached to the black lung bill that was passed by Congress last December -- was an ill-conceived notion in the first place.

I voted against it originally.

In fact, I forced two roll-call votes in the Senate on the congressional tax deduction to make certain that senators were clearly on record on the issue.

I also became a co-sponsor of legislation -- back in January -- to eliminate the special tax break.

And I have voted several times since December to repeal it.

In addition, I voted recently for a provision -- which unfortunately was not approved -- that would have required members of Congress to publicly dis-

close their income tax returns.

Members of Congress should not expect special consideration from the Internal Revenue Service.

According to IRS regulations written on the congressional tax deduction, the old \$3,000 ceiling on deductions member of Congress could take on living expenses was replaced with provisions that substantially increased the amount of allowable deductions.

A repeal of these special tax provisions will mean that members of Congress will return to the \$3,000 ceiling.

Americans have made it very clear that Congress should not be voting itself special favors from the IRS.

I agree with them.

The repeal of the special congressional tax break was a welcome action for many of us who have fought for months to eliminate that unfair provision.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Jobs For Senior Citizens

Hundreds of West Virginians have written to me about the importance of continuing the community service jobs program for older Americans.

Many of them have told me that these part-time jobs provide a much-needed income supplement. Others have said that their community service jobs give them an added measure of self-sufficiency and dignity.

I wholeheartedly support their contentions.

The community service jobs program must continue.

Several weeks ago, I introduced a resolution in the United States Senate -- which was recently approved by an overwhelming 89 to 6 vote -- to oppose the weakening or termination of this jobs program for our senior citizens.

My resolution was in response to the Administration's proposal -- made earlier this year -- to eliminate the senior jobs program, an action taken despite the fact that Congress voted in December to continue the program for another three years.

The community service jobs program provides more than 54,000 part-time jobs to low-income senior citizens across the country, including hundreds of West Virginians.

A majority of these

minimum-wage jobs go to elderly women, and most of the participants provide vital community services in public hospitals, day care centers, libraries, and senior citizen centers.

If we were to allow the senior jobs program to be eliminated -- as some have suggested -- thousands of our working older Americans would be forced from their jobs and many would have to turn to welfare or food stamps to survive.

The expense of that would more than offset any budget savings realized by cancelling the senior jobs program.

But I think the outpouring of letters and concern from senior citizens in all parts of West Virginia best expresses the compelling reasons for continuing the program.

I heard from a senior citizen in southern West Virginia, for example, who told me that if it were not for his part-time, community service job, he and his wife would not be able to make ends meet.

And a woman in central West Virginia told me her job gave her the chance to provide for herself, instead of turning to welfare.

For people such as these, the community service jobs program means independence and survival, and I will work to see that it continues.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Bus Must Stop Here

Significant deregulation of our bus industry -- as called for in legislation that was recently approved by the Senate -- could have a severe impact on small towns and communities in West Virginia.

I voted against that legislation, and I have urged President Reagan to veto it when it reaches his desk.

The bus deregulation bill would make it easier for bus companies to cut back or drop routes in small towns.

In many of West Virginia's mining and farming communities, bus service is the only mode of public transportation.

If that service were eliminated, communities would be isolated, and residents -- especially the elderly and those with no access to private transportation -- could find it difficult to get around.

The House has passed a somewhat similar deregulation bill, and differences in the bill will be ironed out before it is sent to the White House for approval.

Some supporters of the bill have tried to give assurances that bus deregulation would not hurt people in small or rural communities.

But because other attempts at transportation deregulation -- notably in

the areas of trucking and airlines -- have not worked well for West Virginia and other small states, this is not a persuasive argument.

Trucking deregulation, for example, has forced many large and small trucklines trying to operate on some of West Virginia's routes to declare bankruptcy. In fact, only two of the major trucklines that serve West Virginia or nearby states have sustained healthy operating ratios.

Prior to the Senate vote on the measure, I received a letter from the chairman of West Virginia's Public Service Commission, who described to me the probable impact of bus deregulation on West Virginia.

He named 39 communities in West Virginia that could be left without point-to-point bus service should the legislation be enacted into law.

And he observed that "this is but a fraction of those communities which would be subject to a loss of bus service if this legislation is passed."

I relayed these observations to President Reagan when I asked that he veto the measure.

The bus deregulation bill is not in the best interests of West Virginians, and I hope the President will see the wisdom in vetoing it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Ill-Advised Tax Increase

When the Senate recently approved a bill to raise taxes by \$98.5 billion over the next three years, I voted against it.

This proposed tax increase is wrong any way you look at it.

It is wrong to raise taxes in the middle of a recession.

It is wrong to tax the very people who are already suffering because of high taxes and the poor performance of our economy.

I voted against raising taxes on West Virginians.

Our small businessmen, our farmers, our senior citizens, our working middle - and lower-income taxpayers have already paid an unfair share of the country's tax burden.

This ill-advised tax increase -- if it is enacted into law -- would be the largest tax hike in our peacetime history.

It will now be considered by the House of Representatives.

Among other things, the Senate bill would:

-- provide for withholding tax on interest and dividends;

-- triple the federal tax on telephone service;

-- double the federal tax on cigarettes;

-- increase the tax on airline tickets;

-- increase the unemployment insurance tax, which would increase the cost of hiring workers at a time when unemployment stands at post-war record highs, and which would place an added burden on businesses and consumers;

-- and increase the cost of health care for our senior citizens.

During Senate consideration of the tax bill, I co-sponsored an amendment that we called the "fairness amendment." Unfortunately, it was narrowly defeated.

The "fairness amendment" would have eliminated some of the most unfair provisions of the tax bill for our lower - and middle - income taxpayers -- such as the provisions I have listed above -- and would have offset them by deferring the third year of the Kemp/Roth tax cut for all taxpayers who earn more than \$78,000 a year until the budget is balanced.

Taxpayers earning \$46,500 or less would have received the full ten percent tax cut, while those taxpayers with incomes between \$46,500 and \$78,000 would have received a graduated portion of the tax cut.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Time For Caution

The United States must act with extreme caution with respect to the current situation in Lebanon.

I made this point to President Reagan recently during a White House meeting in which other congressional leaders and I were briefed on the fighting in that country.

The President called us to the White House to discuss the conditions under which U.S. troops might be sent to Lebanon.

He said he would consider sending troops only under the following conditions:

--if Lebanon made a formal request to our government that U.S. Marines be sent to that country as part of a multinational force to evacuate the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) from Lebanon;

--and if all parties involved -- including Lebanon, Israel, Syria, and the PLO -- guaranteed that U.S. forces would have no hostilities directed at them.

I told the President that my support for sending troops to Lebanon could come only under certain limited conditions, including:

--the two provisions set forth by the President stated above;

--that only a very limited number of Americans could be sent for only a very brief time -- if at all -- and only for

the very limited purpose of facilitating the exodus of the PLO from Lebanon;

--that other nations -- such as France -- would have to agree to participate with the U.S. troops;

--and that such use of U.S. troops be authorized under the provision of the War Powers Act that limits the use of troops to no more than 60 days, unless specifically authorized by law to extend such period no more than an additional 30 days, and which specifically authorizes Congress to withdraw such troops at any time within the 60-day time period.

Since the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-76, Lebanon has not existed as a free and sovereign nation. In fact, instability has reigned in the region since then, complicated by the presence of the PLO, Christian and Moslem enclaves, and a Syrian military occupation of some 40,000 troops.

I believe if the PLO were gotten out of Lebanon, and the Syrians would withdraw, then the Israelis would withdraw, and Lebanon could once again be for the Lebanese to enjoy peace.

It is in our interests that there be peace in the Middle East. But it is also essential that we proceed with great caution relative to the current strife in Lebanon.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Interest Rate Relief

Chronically high interest rates are eating away at our economy.

They have taken jobs away from West Virginians.

They have prevented our young people from being able to purchase their own homes.

They have sent record numbers of our small businessmen into bankruptcy.

They have put our domestic automobile industry -- and many other industries -- on the ropes.

In short, high interest rates have caused economic misery, and they have prevented the economy from making any kind of meaningful recovery.

Recently, I introduced legislation -- along with 33 of my Senate colleagues -- that would require the Federal Reserve Board to bring down high interest rates.

House Majority Leader Jim Wright has also introduced my bill in the House of Representatives, along with 65 of his colleagues.

My legislation would direct the Federal Reserve Board to target interest rates -- along with the growth of the money supply -- in determining monetary policy.

Under my bill, Congress would not be involved

in the day-to-day details of developing monetary policy. That is something that should be left to the Federal Reserve Board.

It would, however, re-establish reasonable interest rates as a national goal, and it would charge the Federal Reserve Board with making sure that positive, real interest rates stayed within the historic range of one to four points above inflation.

Historically, interest rates have run between one and four percentage points above the rate of inflation. That is a reasonable level -- one that will permit economic growth and that will keep Americans working -- and it is the goal of my bill.

We must have relief from sky-high interest rates, and I have launched an all-out effort to secure broad-based and bi-partisan support for my legislation.

Passage of my legislation would bring interest rates down to tolerable and appropriate levels.

In the process, it would put West Virginians back on their jobs, help our struggling housing and automobile industries, offer relief to our small businessmen, our farmers, and our senior citizens, and get our economy moving again.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For Our Jobless

Since the middle of June, nearly 3,000 West Virginians have exhausted their unemployment compensation benefits.

For many of them, there will be no check to pay the mortgage, no check to buy the groceries, no check to pay the utility bills.

And with the continuing recession -- which has resulted in a jobless rate in West Virginia of 12.3 percent in June, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics -- the number of West Virginians exhausting their benefits is bound to grow.

Jobless West Virginians need some assurance that they will be able to continue to make ends meet.

The long-term solution is to get our economy moving so West Virginians can get back to work -- a goal that we in Congress are working toward.

In the short-term, however, unemployed West Virginians and other Americans need temporary assistance to get them through this recession.

I have introduced legislation that would temporarily extend unemployment benefits an additional 13 weeks in states with high unemployment, such as West Virginia.

Under my legislation, unemployed persons would be eligible for 52 weeks of unemployment compensation -- instead of only 39 weeks -- as long as they lost their jobs involuntarily and were continuing to

search for another job.

These temporary benefits would be offered until the national unemployment rate dropped below 8 percent.

Recently, I presented testimony on my legislation -- which has 21 Senate co-sponsors -- before the Senate Finance Committee. The chairman of the Committee, who held the hearings at my request, indicated support for a temporary extension of unemployment benefits, as I have suggested.

I told the committee that West Virginians are suffering through an unparalleled economic slump, and that our steelworkers and coal miners had been particularly hard-hit.

Manufacturing jobs in West Virginia have declined to the lowest level since the Great Depression, and employment in the coal industry is down for the seventh month in a row.

What this means for unemployed West Virginians is that the probability of finding other employment is not great.

A temporary extension of unemployment benefits was enacted in our last two serious economic recessions -- in 1971 and again in 1974.

The current recession is far worse than either of the previous two, and it is time we offered our unemployed at least a few more weeks of benefits to help them stave off economic disaster.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Securing Our Coal Future

West Virginia would benefit tremendously from an expansion of America's coal exports.

Not only would our state's coal industry prosper, but increased American coal sales overseas would put West Virginians to work.

Unfortunately, however, the condition of our nation's coal-shipping ports jeopardizes that expansion, and for that reason I have introduced legislation in the United States Senate to upgrade America's coal ports.

Our nation's coal-shipping facilities are obsolete.

They cannot accommodate the larger and more economical coal-carrying vessels -- or super colliers, as they are called -- which have capacities of 150,000 dead-weight tons.

In the years ahead, the inadequacy of our ports will greatly inhibit our coal sales overseas.

By 1985, super colliers are expected to handle a quarter of the world's coal export tonnage. By 1990, that figure is expected to increase to 44 percent.

This inability to handle the larger coal-carrying vessels makes our coal more expensive to our Japanese and European customers. Eighteen ports

overseas -- in countries that compete with America for the world's coal trade -- can handle the large vessels.

As a result, it has been estimated that our coal costs as much as 20 to 30 percent more than coal from South Africa or Australia.

If our ports were equipped to handle the large vessels -- which is the goal of my legislation -- U.S. coal transportation costs might be cut as much as 40 percent.

My bill would authorize the use of customs revenues to pay for deep-draft channel operation, maintenance, and navigation improvements.

It would also set up a 50-50 cost-sharing between the federal government and the local port authority for any port improvement projects below 45 feet.

Approval of my legislation -- which I am actively pursuing -- would make certain that our coal markets overseas do not disappear because of antiquated and inadequate facilities.

Paving the way for increased American coal exports would be good for our country's economy, and it would help secure the future for thousands of West Virginians who work in the coal industry.

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toll-Free Assistance For West Virginians

In one of my recent newsletters, I included some toll-free numbers for federal agencies that I thought would be helpful to West Virginians.

Because of the response I received, I am reprinting some of those numbers, and adding a few

new numbers.

Some of them will help you with state-related problems, and others with federally related matters.

As always, my office stands ready to be of assistance to any West Virginian who needs help with a federal problem.

Consumer Product Safety:	1-800-638-8326
State Income Tax Help:	1-800-642-9016
Consumer Sales Tax Help:	1-800-642-8698
Federal Income Tax Help:	1-800-543-7200
Insurance Department:	1-800-642-9004
State Labor Department:	1-800-642-9100
State Fuel and Energy Office:	1-800-642-9012
Motor Vehicles Department:	1-800-642-9066
State Park Reservations, Travel Information:	1-800-642-9058
Public Service Commission:	1-800-642-8544
Social Security Administration:	1-800-848-0106
Teachers Retirement:	1-800-642-8509
Veterans Benefit Counseling:	1-800-642-3520
Workman's Compensation:	1-800-642-9091
Child Abuse:	1-800-352-6513
Toll Free Operator:	1-800-555-1212



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Precipitation: We Must Look Before We Leap

Many West Virginians have expressed concern to me about regulations that were recently proposed to control acid precipitation.

West Virginia consumers are concerned that these regulations could increase their utility bills.

Our coal miners have expressed fear that they could lose their jobs.

And it has been estimated that our state economy could lose hundreds of millions of dollars each year if these regulations are implemented.

The regulations that have caused so much concern -- and which I oppose -- were recently proposed by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The Committee voted for massive federal regulations that would require a 31-state area, including West Virginia, to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 8 million tons below 1980 levels. This reduction would be accomplished over a 12-year period, the committee advised.

These ill-advised proposals -- if they were ever enacted into law -- could cause utility bills in West Virginia to increase, could throw some 15,000 West Virginia coal miners out of work, and could cost our state's economy an estimated \$380 million each year.

I have been seeking balance in the acid precipitation debate. Before we allow any new

federal regulations to be enacted, we must know more about the phenomenon known as acid precipitation.

Where does it come from -- is it caused by automobile emissions, the burning of coal, decaying vegetation -- and what are its short and long-term effects?

These are questions that have not been satisfactorily answered, and until they are we cannot afford to put costly -- and perhaps ineffective -- regulations into effect.

Recently, I testified before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in support of legislation I introduced last January on acid precipitation.

My bill would speed up the federal acid precipitation study that is already underway and would put a hold on any new federal regulations until the study is completed.

Under my bill, that study -- which should be able to tell us the origins, causes, and effects of acid precipitation -- would be due in June 1985 instead of 1990.

Before we risk thousands of jobs, millions of dollars, and higher utility bills for consumers, we must have accurate scientific data, about acid precipitation. That is the approach I have taken, and the one for which I am fighting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing the Budget

The Senate recently passed a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget, and because I believe we must work to cut deficits and balance the budget I voted in favor of that amendment.

I feel very strongly, however, that we cannot wait until the House of Representatives acts and three-fourths of the states ratify that amendment -- which could take years -- before we control federal spending and balance the budget.

We must act now. Simply voting for a balanced budget amendment will not magically bring the budget into balance.

I have developed and am pursuing a three-pronged strategy that I believe is a fair and equitable way to achieve the goal of a balanced federal budget.

I think "fair and equitable" are key words here. As we strive to bring spending under control, we must not do that by placing the burden on the backs of the lower- and middle-income taxpayers, the elderly, or the disadvantaged.

The first part of my plan is to secure adoption of my interest rate legislation, which I have introduced in the Senate along with 33 of my colleagues and which has been introduced in the House of Representatives with 65 co-sponsors.

My legislation would require the Federal Reserve Board to keep interest rates

within the historic range of 1 to 4 percentage points above the inflation rate.

It would prevent the persistently high interest rates we have seen over the past months, which have added billions of dollars to our budget deficits in interest payments on the federal debt, and which have taken their toll in job losses, a housing slump, and record business failures.

The second part of my plan would be to temporarily delay the third year of the 1981 Kemp/Roth tax cut for those who make more than \$78,600 annually, and to scale back that cut for people who earn between \$46,500 and \$78,600. Taxpayers making less than \$46,500 would receive the full, third-year cut.

Finally, I favor limiting the increase in defense spending to five percent real growth each year.

I have always been -- and I continue to be -- an advocate of a strong national defense. I very firmly believe, though, that a five percent growth each year in defense spending will give us a healthy and much-needed boost to our national defense efforts without providing so much money that the Pentagon cannot efficiently and effectively spend it.

Taken as a package, my plan would significantly reduce the federal deficit, and I believe it is a fair way to achieve the goal we have set for ourselves in adopting a balanced budget amendment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Vote For West Virginians

Recently, I voted to lower federal spending by nearly \$2 billion and to continue a number of programs that are important to West Virginians.

That vote came when a bi-partisan coalition in the House and Senate joined forces to override the President's veto of the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal 1982.

When the President vetoed the \$14.2 billion funding measure in late August, he characterized it as a "budget busting" bill that provided too much money for domestic programs and not enough for foreign aid.

In reality, the bill was \$1.9 billion below what the Administration had previously requested and approved.

Where Congress and the Administration obviously disagreed, then, was not on whether the money should be spent, but on our spending priorities. I think that Congress was correct in calling for less foreign aid spending -- in this case, \$110 million less -- and more for programs for our people here at home.

My vote to override the Administration's veto was a vote for West Virginians.

It was a vote to continue a number of important programs that the Administration singled out as being objectionable, including:

-- the community service jobs program for senior citizens, which employs nearly 700 West

Virginians in part-time community service work, and which provides a needed income supplement for senior citizens who participate in the program;

-- educational assistance for West Virginia college and vocational education students;

-- compensatory education programs for the handicapped;

-- my amendment to protect the important energy research programs at the Morgantown Energy Technology Center by ensuring that adequate employee levels are maintained to carry out the programs;

-- a provision to make certain that progress on the vital Tug Fork flood control project in southern West Virginia moves forward;

-- and funding to reclaim abandoned mine lands in West Virginia.

These are all programs that help West Virginians, and programs that I voted to continue.

I believe we must be prudent in our federal spending, and, as I have noted, the bill that Congress approved will cut the deficits by nearly \$2 billion.

I also believe, however, that we should spend what federal money is available on programs that help our people here at home -- in West Virginia -- and less on foreign aid for the people who live beyond our borders.

Those are my priorities, and the priorities I will continue to pursue for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Spending Our Defense Dollars Wisely

We must make certain that every federal dollar earmarked for the Pentagon is channeled into programs and policies that strengthen our national defense effort.

One way to do that is to establish an independent inspector general to watch over Pentagon spending, which was the purpose of legislation I co-sponsored earlier this year and which recently was enacted by Congress.

As a long-time advocate of a strong and viable national defense effort, I think it is vital that a department as large and as important as the Pentagon -- which has a 1983 budget of roughly a quarter of a trillion dollars -- have an inspector general, who has the responsibility of finding and eliminating any waste or mismanagement that may exist.

Inspectors general in 18 other government departments and agencies have enjoyed a wide degree of success in saving the taxpayers money.

A report issued earlier this year by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency took a look at the effectiveness of inspectors general during the last

six months of 1981, and found that they saved the taxpayers over \$406 million and avoided another \$1.7 billion in federal expenditures in those six months alone.

My concern about our defense spending goes beyond eliminating waste and mismanagement in Pentagon programs, however. I also want to make sure that we are spending our money on programs that will contribute to a stronger, more effective defense for our country.

To achieve a more viable national defense, I believe we should:

- develop the MX missile;
- develop the stealth strategic bomber, which would be able to penetrate Soviet air defenses;
- build up our Navy;
- and build up our tactical Air Force.

Those are some of the ways I think we should be using our defense dollars.

And with an independent inspector general at the Pentagon, we can make certain that those dollars are being used in the most effective and efficient manner in order to achieve our goal of a strong national defense.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Plan To Help Our Industries

We need only look at the staggering number of Americans who are out of work to know that help is needed for those who are suffering as a result of our sagging economy.

More than 11 million Americans are unemployed, the highest number since the Great Depression.

An average of 455 businesses are failing each week, a figure that rivals Depression-era business failures.

The nation's steel industry capacity dropped below 40 percent in September, the lowest rate of use since 1938.

Behind each of these statistics are Americans that are suffering, and Americans that need help.

On my trips back home to West Virginia, I have talked with workers who have lost their jobs and cannot find other work. I have talked with financial leaders and industry executives who have been forced to deal with production cutbacks and employee lay-offs.

It becomes increasingly obvious with every passing day that the Administration's program has had its chance to work, and we can no longer stand by and hope for an economic recovery that is not even on the horizon.

I am working on a legislative program to help private industry and small business owners expand and become productive once again, and to put West Virginians back to work.

What I am proposing is the formation of a National Investment Corpora-

tion, which would provide our basic industries, such as the auto and steel industries, and small businesses with affordable credit so that they could restructure their plants and equipment to make them more productive.

My program would not add to our federal deficits.

Instead, it would be fully financed by delaying the third year of the unfair Kemp/Roth tax cut for those making over \$78,600 a year, and partially delaying it for those who earn between \$46,500 and \$78,600.

Under my plan, persons with incomes of \$46,500 and below would receive the full third-year cut.

Additionally, federal deficits would be decreased by an astounding \$25 to \$30 billion for each percentage point that our unemployment rate drops as a result of the upsurge in productivity that my National Investment Corporation would promote.

That would be a fair way to finance a program that would put our basic industries back onto a productive path and our workers back on their jobs.

The idea for a National Investment Corporation is not without precedent. It has been used very successfully for many years in Germany, Japan, and Sweden.

Those countries learned long ago what we must learn: That some government help is necessary if our basic industries are to survive and if our workers are to have jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Veterans: A Lasting Commitment

Many of West Virginia's veterans could benefit from provisions in two bills that I supported and that were recently approved by the United States Senate.

The first bill -- the Veterans Compensation, Education, and Employment Act -- would provide a much-needed, 7.4 percent cost-of-living increase to veterans with service-connected disabilities and to dependents of severely disabled veterans.

The bill would also make increased educational opportunities available to veterans by allowing for increased flexibility in determining eligibility for both educational assistance and rehabilitation programs.

Finally, the bill would make it easier for veterans to find work by changing the administration and coordination of the government's veterans employment programs.

That particular provision would be of special significance to our Vietnam veterans, who are suffering from intolerably high unemployment rates. Veterans between the ages of 25 and 29 have an unemployment rate of nearly 17 percent, well above the national average, and nationwide an estimated 685,000 Vietnam veterans are out of work.

The second important measure approved by the

Senate recently -- the fiscal 1983 appropriations bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development and independent agencies -- contains two provisions that would be meaningful to many Vietnam veterans: Funding for Agent Orange research, and funding for readjustment counselling centers.

This is not the first time the Senate has addressed these important concerns.

Last year, for instance, the Senate approved two amendments to the Veterans Health Care Act -- amendments that I cosponsored -- that provided basic health care eligibility for veterans exposed to dangerous substances such as Agent Orange, and extended for three years the Vietnam veterans readjustment counselling programs.

We in Congress place a high priority on strengthening our veterans programs, especially those involving education, training, rehabilitation, medical care, housing assistance, and income security.

This nation's debt and obligation to all of the men and women who have served our country throughout the years must remain steady and strong.

To our nation's veterans, we have a lasting commitment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Vote!

November 2 is Election Day, and a day for all eligible West Virginia voters to take a few moments to go to the polls and cast their ballots.

Our right -- indeed our duty -- to vote in America is one of our most cherished and important privileges and duties.

It is a privilege we must take care to exercise.

Unfortunately, however, over the past several decades fewer and fewer Americans have been going to the polls on Election Day.

At the beginning of this century, in the election of 1900, 74 percent of all eligible voters cast their ballots. Eighty years later, in our 1980 Presidential election, voter participation had declined to only 53 percent.

For increasing number of voters, apparently, it has become easy to sit on the sidelines on Election Day and say, "My one vote really doesn't count that much, anyway."

But history refutes that notion.

In at least four Presidential elections -- those of Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman, and John F. Kennedy -- the margin of victory was less than one vote

per precinct in only one or two key states.

By not exercising our voting privilege and performing our duty to vote, we risk having a government that is not elected by and responsive to the whole citizenry, but that is elected by and responsive to single-issue and special interest groups.

The issues that face all of us today -- the condition of the economy, the importance of national defense, and our position in world affairs -- are too important for us to allow a bare majority of Americans to choose the men and women who will deal with those issues.

West Virginians can take pride in the fact that our voter turn-out in 1980 was significantly higher than the national average. That year, 737,715 of West Virginia's 1,034,546 registered voters -- or 71 percent -- cast their ballots on Election Day.

We showed America in 1980 that West Virginians take their voting privileges seriously.

On Election Day 1982, let West Virginians again show America that we know the importance and the power of exercising our privilege of voting.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Worthy Task

Two serious West Virginia problems -- unemployment and the environmental hazards of abandoned minesites -- are addressed in legislation I recently introduced in the U.S. Senate.

My bill would make abandoned mine reclamation a higher priority by directing the Secretary of the Interior to actively pursue such a program, and to hire -- to the greatest extent possible -- unemployed coal miners and construction workers to perform the work.

There are a number of attractive features to this bill.

First, it would provide at least temporary employment for two of our hardest-hit groups -- our miners and our construction workers.

In the coal industry, 8,000 of West Virginia's 55,000 miners are without jobs, and thousands of others are on shortened work weeks or reduced hours. Construction work has fallen off nearly 30 percent in recent months, throwing thousands of workers off their jobs.

Since many construction workers and coal miners have had experience with reclamation projects, my legislation would put them to work not only on a familiar job, but also on a worthy and productive task.

West Virginia has

many abandoned and unreclaimed minesites -- the result of mining activities many years ago before modern mining and reclamation methods were in use -- and greater emphasis by the Department of the Interior to clean up these minesites would certainly have a positive impact on our state.

Finally, the funding for a program such as I have suggested is already in place -- in the form of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund -- so no new federal expenditures would be needed.

That trust fund, which is made up of fees that coal producers pay on every ton of coal mined, was created in 1977 as a means of financing the reclamation of abandoned minesites.

The current fund now stands at \$630 million, with \$269 million earmarked for reclamation projects to be designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

I have long contended that the Interior Department has been slow in allocating monies to the states from this fund for reclamation projects.

The goal of my legislation is to shake loose a good portion of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund for these important reclamation projects, and to create jobs for some of our unemployed workers in the process.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Good News For The Steel Industry

The nation's carbon and specialty steel industries have been severely hurt by the unfair trade practices of foreign steel producers.

The evidence of the harm that has been done can be seen here in West Virginia, where thousands of our steelworkers have been thrown off their jobs.

And we can see it in our metallurgical coal industry, the health of which depends in great measure on how well the steel industry is performing. Because of steel's decline, mines have been shut down, and our miners idled.

Just recently, however, there was some good news for our domestic carbon steel industry when an agreement was reached between the U.S. and ten European countries to limit the amount of foreign carbon steel products coming into our country.

That agreement -- between the U.S. and Great Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland, Denmark, and Greece -- will restrain exports to the U.S. in 10 steel product categories through the close of 1985.

The Commerce Department, which helped formulate the agreement with the Europeans, estimates that 99 percent of all steel imports to the U.S. will be affected.

For our steel industry and our workers, this is an encouraging step toward restoring fair trade and halting the precipitous de-

cline in steel capacity in this country, which is now hovering near 40 percent.

The agreement also reaffirms what I have been saying for months: That unfair foreign trade is costing our industry and our workers a high price in lost jobs and lost production, and that it must be stopped.

That is the message I gave to the ITC last January, when I testified on the harm of unfairly subsidized foreign steel imports, and the message I relayed to officials from West Germany and Great Britain in meetings this year.

Now that we have reached an agreement with the Europeans on carbon steel products, I believe we must turn our efforts toward providing similar relief to our specialty steel industry, which provides an important part of our country's defense industrial base.

Recently, I contacted President Reagan on behalf of the Senate Steel caucus, and requested that he dedicate his efforts to developing a similar export limitation agreement for the specialty steel industry.

I believe we must continue to work to see that our domestic industry can compete on a fair and equal basis with its foreign rivals, and that our steelworkers and those who work in steel-sensitive industries do not continue to lose their jobs to foreign workers because of the unfair trading practices of those countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Plan For Recovery

With over 11.5 million Americans out of work in our country, the most serious and pressing problem facing us is how to put people back on their jobs.

It is a problem that demands an immediate and lasting solution.

Over the course of this year, I have developed and introduced several pieces of legislation to get our economy moving and put our people back to work, including:

-- Legislation to keep interest rates down to affordable levels.

Unacceptably high interest rates have threatened economic recovery in our country by thwarting business expansion, causing record numbers of business bankruptcies, and making home ownership an impossibility for many.

My legislation would direct the Federal Reserve Board to take interest rates into account when setting monetary policy, and would compel the Board to keep those rates down to reasonable and affordable levels.

-- Legislation to end the unfair practices of many of our foreign trading partners.

Too many American jobs have been lost to foreign workers because of the unfair trading practices of our foreign competitors, including thousands of steel jobs here in West Virginia.

My legislation would make certain that we can trade with foreign countries on a fair and equal basis, and end the unfair subsidization of foreign products that is costing the jobs of our workers.

-- Legislation to encourage the sale of more of our coal overseas.

We West Virginians understand the importance

of exporting greater quantities of coal overseas. Exporting more coal would not only provide more jobs in West Virginia, but would also have a favorable impact on our balance of trade.

Under my legislation, which I introduced earlier this year, our country's coal ports would be deepened and modernized, thereby making it possible for foreign countries to use their larger and more economical coal-carrying vessels that cannot now be accommodated in our antiquated ports.

In past years, I have worked hard to modernize and upgrade our inland waterway system, which is an integral part of our coal-shipping network. That was an important and necessary first step in increasing our coal exports, and we must now turn our efforts to improving our coal ports to complete that network.

-- Legislation to put our miners and construction workers on the task of reclaiming abandoned mine sites.

This legislation would serve a dual purpose. Not only would it put unemployed construction workers and coal miners to work, but it would also remove the environmental hazards created by abandoned mine sites.

Finally, I am developing legislation that would create a National Investment Corporation, which would provide affordable credit to our nation's businesses and industries so they could expand and become productive once again.

These are the kinds of forward-looking ideas we must pursue -- and pursue quickly -- if we are to put our economy back on sound footing and our



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Relief For Our Footwear Industry

Recently, when I was in West Virginia, I went to the Parsons Shoe Company in Tucker County, which now employs some 150 West Virginians.

When the plant was operating at peak capacity, there were twice that many employees, but a downturn in our domestic footwear industry -- brought about largely by the unfair trade practices of foreign shoe manufacturers -- has caused massive unemployment at Parsons and at other shoe companies in our state.

Relief from these unfair foreign trading practices and from the flood of cheap shoes coming into the United States must be forthcoming for our shoe manufacturing industry, which comprises a vital portion of the economies of six West Virginia counties.

That is why I have urged U.S. Trade Representative William Brock to begin an investigation into unfair trading practices in the foreign footwear industry.

Over a year ago, import relief for a portion of our domestic shoe industry -- relief that offered some protection from cheap imports -- was terminated.

Since then, over 20,000 footwear workers have been thrown off their jobs, and today, over 60

percent of our domestic market has been taken over by foreign imports.

In a letter to Brock, I told him about my visit to Tucker County, where the shoe industry accounts for 36 percent of all manufacturing jobs.

I also described for Brock the plight of 325 West Virginians who worked at the Bata Shoe Company in Elkins, which was recently forced to close its doors because of the troubles in the domestic shoe industry.

Along with investigating foreign footwear practices, I asked Brock to work to remove or reduce trade barriers in other countries.

Because of the barriers overseas, foreign footwear cannot enter most countries of the world, and consequently much of it is diverted to our country, which affords little or no import protection.

Our domestic shoe industry -- which is an important part of the manufacturing base in West Virginia and in 37 other states -- and our footwear workers must not continue to suffer because of the massive numbers of foreign shoes coming into our country.

Our footwear industry and its workers deserve relief, and I am fighting to see that they get it.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Groundwork For Prosperity

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* article, a West Virginia school bus driver recounted her morning ritual in driving her charges to school.

Along her route is a bridge that is unsafe for heavy loads.

So each morning, she stops at the far side of the bridge, unloads the children so they can walk across the aging structure, and drives the empty bus to the other side to collect them.

An estimated 1,500 West Virginia school children go through the same routine every school day, walking across 20 West Virginia bridges that cannot safely bear the weight of large vehicles.

Nationwide, thousands of students may be walking across unsafe bridges each day.

This is a dramatic illustration of the shabby and often dangerous condition of our nation's infrastructure -- the basic public works upon which we all depend.

And unless we act quickly to shore up the underpinnings of our society -- our roads, bridges, locks and dams, ports, water and sewer systems, public transportation, and other public works -- we risk jeopardizing our country's future economic and industrial health.

Well-maintained, smooth-functioning, and effective public works are critical to our country's growth and prosperity. To attract business and industry, communities must be able to offer the types of

public services and facilities -- such as a reliable transportation network, for instance -- that foster business expansion and the creation of new jobs.

Here in West Virginia, we can see the importance of developing our infrastructure.

In Grafton, for example, a water filtration system that I helped the community to obtain is an important element in the planned expansion of a glass company there, which could mean many new jobs for our state.

And in Princeton, a nursing home for our senior citizens was made possible after a sewer project for the town was completed.

Putting the nation's infrastructure back in good running order -- which would cost us several trillion dollars, according to a recent study -- is perhaps the greatest challenge facing us in the next two decades.

We have a choice.

We can continue to allow our public works to deteriorate, threatening not only our future economic growth and prosperity, but also endangering the people who depend on our infrastructure -- such as the West Virginia pupils who walk our aging bridges each morning and afternoon.

Or, we can dedicate our efforts to revitalizing our crumbling public works and laying the groundwork for a better future for all of us. And that is the course I believe we must follow.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help For Social Security

West Virginians of all ages have shared their concerns with me about the health and future of the social security system.

Young West Virginians have told me that they are not confident the system will be there for them when they retire.

West Virginians approaching retirement age have said they are afraid that the benefits they have been counting on will not be available.

Social security recipients are worried that the benefits upon which so many of them depend will be cut back.

We in Congress are aware of all of those concerns, we understand the importance of the social security system, and we are committed to restoring the system to sound financial condition.

I am disappointed that our current economic problems have spawned attempts to bring budget deficits under control by pulling the rug out from under our social security recipients.

These have been ill-advised and ill-conceived actions, and I have fought against cutting social security. The difficulties fac-

ing the system and our current economic slump are two different problems that must have separate solutions.

Earlier this year, a bipartisan, 15-member task force was appointed to look at social security's problems and make recommendations for solving them.

Some preliminary findings were announced by the group in November, including the projection that if no action is taken to help the social security system, we could face a \$150 to \$200 billion shortfall in funds by the year 1990.

The task force is scheduled to meet again in early December to craft its final recommendations.

Once the final recommendations are made, Congress will have to look carefully at the various options available for shoring up the social security system.

In the remaining days of the 97th Congress, I doubt that the social security question will be resolved.

That important task will probably fall to the 98th Congress, which will convene in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Unjustified Plan

"Black lung" disease -- a dreaded affliction caused by the inhalation of coal dust -- has struck thousands of our miners over the years.

For those miners and their families, and for tens of thousands of other miners, the black lung benefits program, which was begun in 1969 as a result of legislation I helped to enact, is essential and important.

So are West Virginia's six black lung field offices, which handle a swamping load of inquiries on the program each month.

That is why I was concerned to hear persistent rumors that the Department of Labor was considering closing some of its black lung field offices, and why I have stressed to Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan and the chairman of the Senate Labor Appropriations Subcommittee the importance of keeping those offices in operation.

I have also developed language, which I was successful in including in the 1983 Labor appropriation bill, that would keep West Virginia's field offices open, as well as the country's 19 other black lung field offices.

We are already facing a crushing backlog of black lung claims -- an estimated

26,500 -- and it can take from three to five years for a claim to be adjudicated through the appeals process.

If the Department of Labor were to close its field offices, I am afraid that an even greater backlog of claims could result.

In West Virginia alone, our six black lung field offices -- located in Beckley, Bluefield, Elkins, Logan, Madison, and Morgantown -- handle hundreds of inquiries each month.

In testimony earlier this year, Labor Secretary Donovan gave me his personal assurance that he had no plans to close any field offices through the end of fiscal 1983, and he promised to advise me of any change in that plan.

Secretary Donovan also testified that the savings realized by closing a field office would be small -- an estimated \$6,000 for each office -- and that, if a closing made it necessary for the district offices to hire additional staff, little or no savings would be achieved.

Any move to close black lung field offices, under the foregoing circumstances, would be unjustified, and I will do all I can to see that these offices remain in operation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Strong Signal

Keeping interest rates at reasonable, affordable levels is a key to our nation's economic recovery.

That is why I have recently introduced a resolution in the United States Senate -- which has been co-sponsored by 40 of my colleagues -- that makes it clear to the Federal Reserve Board that Congress stands squarely behind efforts to keep interest rates low.

Affordable interest rates would mean:

-- our young people could better afford to buy their own homes, which would also help our ailing construction and housing industries;

-- our automobile industry could get back on its feet because automobile loans would be more reasonable;

-- our small businesses and larger industries would be better able to obtain credit to upgrade and expand their operations and to provide more jobs.

That last point is particularly important to the nearly 12 million Americans who are without jobs, the highest number since the Great Depression, and to the more than 8 million other Americans who are either too discouraged to look for

work, or who are working at jobs that are beneath their capabilities, the so-called underemployed.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation in the Senate that was designed to make the Federal Reserve Board look at real interest rates as well as money supply when setting policy.

The intent of this legislation was to keep interest rates at reasonable levels that would permit economic growth and increased employment.

Shortly after I introduced my legislation this summer, the Federal Reserve Board eased its tight money policies and interest rates came down.

I believe the Federal Reserve Board responded to my legislation because it recognized that Congress was serious about promoting economic recovery through lower interest rates.

My recent resolution has sent another strong signal to the Federal Reserve Board that Congress continues to be committed to keeping interest rates down, and that we believe the Federal Reserve Board must maintain its course of lower interest rates in order to produce a strong and sustained economic recovery.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Backbone of Our Economy

America's small business community — which has come under enormous pressure from high interest rates—should have a voice in determining our nation's economic policies.

To insure a fair representation of this broad segment of our population, I recently offered an amendment on the Senate floor directing the President to appoint a small business representative to the Federal Reserve Board — the policies of which help determine the level of interest rates and the availability of credit.

Unfortunately, the Republican majority in the Senate weakened the language in my amendment so that the Senate is merely on record as urging such an appointment, but the President is not legally bound to do so.

Passage of my original amendment, however, would have required the President to appoint an individual whose background is "in a credit-sensitive sector of the economy, and who is representative of small business, including farming and agriculture."

Indeed, the Act creating the Board in 1913 originally intended a broad representation of America's diverse interests. The law stated that a fair representation

of financial, agricultural, industrial, and commercial interests be considered when a Presidential appointment to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board is made.

To the small businessman, the fact that 15,500 small businesses have collapsed this year—an increase of nearly 50 percent over 1980—is not simply a statistic among other economic data. The small businessman knows the struggles and the heartbreaks endured by those who find their companies failing due to economic conditions. And likewise, he knows that the hopes and needs of the nine million unemployed workers across the nation are similar to those of his own employees.

Small business is not a "special interest" within our economy. Small business accounts for 53 percent of our nation's gross national product and 70 percent of all new jobs. It is the backbone of our economy.

Small business should be given a fair representation on the Federal Reserve Board—an individual who can understand and sympathize with the needs of borrowers, the small entrepreneur who is struggling to stay in business, and the worker who is trying to hold onto his job.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unjust Hardship

The hardship created by the accelerated reviewing procedures in the Social Security disability program has been brought into sharp focus for me by the many letters I have received from affected West Virginians.

These accelerated procedures -- put into effect by the Social Security Administration about a year ago -- have resulted in hundreds of thousands of disabled individuals seeing their benefits abruptly stopped with little advance warning.

Nearly two-thirds of those terminated are truly disabled and deserving of benefits, and following review they have had their benefits reinstated.

This procedure, however, can take as long as a year, and in that time many of those people -- especially those without other income -- have been forced to sell their homes or take other desperate actions.

I was particularly disturbed by a recent newspaper article about a West Virginian who attempted to go back to work after her disability benefits were

terminated.

After less than three days back on the job, according to the article, she aggravated her disability and collapsed. She subsequently underwent surgery.

We must not allow this type of situation to continue.

The Senate recently passed legislation that I supported to slow down the reviewing process and provide that benefit payments would continue until a termination decision was appealed.

Enactment of this legislation into law would give Congress a chance to take a good look at the disability review process and to determine if additional legislation is needed to make certain that qualified recipients are not being made the victim of overzealous and unjust benefit terminations.

Social Security participants pay into the disability trust fund with the expectation that the fund will be there for them when they need it.

We must make certain that this expectation is fulfilled.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Synthetic Fuels: Good For West Virginia

I met recently with our Energy Secretary, Donald Hodel, to discuss the key role that West Virginia could play in our country's energy future.

In that meeting, I told Secretary Hodel that one of my top priorities is to launch a renewed effort to develop a national synthetic fuels program.

Such a program would be good for our country, and good for West Virginia.

In 1980, we made an excellent start toward developing a realistic synthetic fuels program when we passed the Energy Security Act.

That legislation, which I vigorously backed, set up the Synthetic Fuels Corporation to finance the development of facilities to convert coal and oil shale to synthetic fuels.

Regrettably, however, this Administration has moved our nation away from synthetic fuels development, at great risk to the economy and national security.

Synthetic fuels are our most promising and sensible alternative to dependence on the Oil Producing Exporting Countries (OPEC), some of which are unstable at best, and other foreign countries for much of our energy supply.

I shared my concern with Secretary Hodel that one day we may look around and find that our

energy supplies have been cut off.

If we fail to provide for such a possibility, we jeopardize both our national security, which is dependent on a reliable energy supply, and our independence as a nation.

Coal is crucial to a successful synthetic fuels program, since it can be converted into a number of different synthetic fuels by using a variety of processes.

Because of the abundance of coal in our state, a renewed effort to develop synthetic fuels could lead to increased coal production and jobs for our miners.

I told Secretary Hodel that thousands of West Virginia coal miners are now out of work, and I urged him to meet with coal interests from our state early in 1983 so he could learn of their concerns firsthand. He agreed to such a meeting.

From my meeting with Secretary Hodel, I believe he is sympathetic to coal's position in the national energy picture. Further, I have received his assurances that he will work to direct the Energy Department's focus toward coal research in an effort to promote the coal industry.

Finally, I believe Secretary Hodel is now keenly aware of my commitment to development of a national synthetic fuels program.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reclaiming Abandoned Mines

Congress has approved legislation that contains my amendment to provide an additional \$54 million for abandoned mine reclamation projects.

This additional money for fiscal 1983 -- the original recommendation was approximately \$100 million -- would help provide jobs for unemployed West Virginians on some very worthwhile projects.

That was the goal of S-2977, legislation I introduced in the U.S. Senate on September 29, 1982, which directs the Interior Secretary to place a greater emphasis on abandoned mine reclamation projects.

S-2977 also provides that unemployed coal miners and construction workers should be hired to undertake the tasks.

My legislation and my recent amendment are both necessary and constructive.

We have thousands of people out of work in the coal and construction industries who have knowledge of or experience with reclamation projects. Thus, we would be putting people to work on projects with which they are familiar and in which they are skilled.

West Virginians are keenly aware of the importance of reclamation projects. The damage created by the mining activities of

decades ago, such as mine acid drainage, erosion from old refuse dumps, and open mine entrances and tunnels, is dangerous and environmentally unsound.

The \$161 million obligated by Congress for abandoned mine reclamation activities in fiscal 1983, including the \$54 million I was able to obtain, would not come out of the taxpayers' pocket.

Instead, it would be taken from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund, which was created in 1977 to finance such projects.

The fund is comprised of fees or royalties collected from coal operators on every ton of coal mined, and its current balance now exceeds \$600 million.

Unfortunately, the Interior Department has been slow in allocating this money -- which does not collect interest as it sits in the U.S. Treasury -- which is why my amendment and my legislation are so important.

My proposals would put thousands of people to work on some essential projects at no cost to the taxpayer, which would be a worthy feat in these times of skyrocketing unemployment and budget constraints.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Fair Approach

Recently I voted against putting an additional five-cent federal tax on every gallon of gasoline.

Nevertheless, the legislation that included that tax -- the Surface Transportation Assistance Act -- was adopted by Congress, and the President has signed it into law.

The purpose of this legislation is to repair and rebuild the nation's roads and bridges, and that is a goal that I support.

I believe it is wrong, however, to finance such a program by imposing more taxes on our people who least afford such taxes, especially when so many of them are out of work or threatened with unemployment.

Earlier this year, I appointed, and served as chairman of, a Senate Task Force on Jobs. Out of this task force evolved my proposal -- similar to that adopted by Congress -- to put Americans to work on some much-needed public projects.

However, my plan would have been broader in scope than the Congress-approved measure, and would have been financed in what I consider to be a more fair way -- by placing a three-year delay on the third year of the

Kemp/Roth tax cut for people earning very high incomes.

I was disappointed when my proposal was narrowly defeated on a nearly straight party-lined vote.

Under my plan, persons earning more than \$65,000 a year would have foregone the third year of the Kemp/Roth tax cut for the next three years.

A portion of that tax cut would have been held back for those who make between \$50,000 and \$65,000 annually, and anyone making less than \$50,000 would have received the full, third-year cut.

Not only would my plan have created more than twice as many jobs as the plan approved by Congress -- an estimated 731,000 -- but it also would have provided for a more wide-ranging variety of projects, such as repairing and rebuilding bridges, roads, mass transit systems, public buildings, water and sewer systems, and local public projects.

My approach was a more fair way to create nearly a quarter of a million jobs and strengthen our country without imposing yet another tax that will hit middle- and lower-income Americans the hardest.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Underemployed

The most discouraging aspect of our economic troubles is the vast number of people who have been thrown out of work.

West Virginia is suffering from the highest jobless rate in the nation, according to the most recent data from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, with 16.4 percent or 128,400 West Virginians unemployed.

Nationwide, more than 12 million Americans are jobless, the largest number since the Great Depression.

Other casualties of our faltering economy -- and ones that tend to be overlooked -- are the so-called "underemployed" -- those people working only part-time or at jobs where their best skills and capabilities are not used.

Though there are no firm figures on the number of underemployed Americans, the Bureau of Labor Statistics believes that more than 6.5 million Americans are working part-time but looking for full-time jobs, up from 4.3 million in July, 1981.

For the underemployed, there is consolation in having at least part-time employment, especially when so many have no jobs at all.

But those workers also bear the frustration of knowing that their special training and skills are not being used.

In a larger sense, the steady increase in the number of underemployed Americans threatens any

real or lasting economic recovery because many workers increasingly are not using their talents and capabilities to their fullest.

The increase in underemployment can be traced to several factors.

Technological advances in recent years have made some jobs out-dated or unnecessary. These same advances have caught us without the needed number of workers trained for certain other jobs.

President Reagan often points to the large number of "help wanted" advertisements in our newspapers as evidence that jobs are available and going begging. In fact, however, the overwhelming majority of those advertisements are for highly skilled workers -- computer specialists, medical personnel, engineers.

Part of the solution to underemployment is to take a careful look at where jobs will be in the next decades and to encourage our young people to train for those jobs.

When possible, we should retrain our workers to meet the demands of a changing world.

Above all, we must try to match training and education with the jobs that will be available in the future.

If we fail to take these actions, we risk wasting the talents of our youth, jeopardizing our country's future, and taking a chance that underemployment will become a growing and permanent phenomenon.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

SKILLS AND JOBS FOR TOMORROW

Today's grade-school kids may hold winning tickets in the world's technology sweepstakes.

If we act quickly and wisely, that is.

Much of tomorrow's international economy will depend on high technology -- computers, robots, electronics. Some experts believe that our civilization is today undergoing changes more far-reaching than any since the Industrial Revolution. The workplace, the assembly line, even many jobs themselves -- all will look different in coming decades.

In recent years, the United States has been in the vanguard of the technological revolution. The "Sputnik scare" of the 1950's and our forward surge in space exploration gave us a windfall in scientific and technical progress. Today, the United States is the world's "hi-tech" champion.

But America's technological supremacy may be fading.

Reportedly, Japan and Germany are pouring vast sums of money into science and mathematics education -- training their children for mastery in the new scientific and technical age dawning.

Estimates also indicate that twenty times more Soviet pupils are enrolled in calculus alone than are their American counterparts in that subject -- a basic discipline for technological progress.

Unfortunately, while many foreign countries begin advanced science and mathematics courses earlier and require their students to take more of those courses, too many Amer-

ican school children escape with a bare minimum of arithmetic, algebra, or scientific subjects.

To make matters worse, the United States suffers a chronic shortage of math and science teachers -- 40 states reported such shortages in 1981, for instance.

Apparently, a teaching hemorrhage is draining our classrooms of the teaching talent needed to ensure future generations of adequately trained scientists and mathematicians -- the avant garde of our technological future. That hemorrhage largely results from the higher salaries and the great demand for scientific and mathematical expertise in private industry and business.

America cannot afford to become the world's science and mathematics laggard -- a second-rate technical power. In the years ahead, more and more jobs will require skills that only scientific and mathematics education can supply.

We should give increased scientific and mathematics instruction an emergency priority in our educational system.

Parents, teachers, and business people should encourage boys and girls to tackle more science and mathematics courses.

Nationwide efforts should underline the need of greater computer training and technical knowledge.

Technology and scientific competence are keys to America's future prosperity and security. And grade school is not too early to start laying the groundwork for that future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Burdensome Requirement

My office has been hit by a blizzard of nearly 20,000 cards and letters from West Virginians who are concerned about the new legislative provision that requires banks and savings and loan associations to begin withholding federal taxes on interest and dividend income.

That kind of outpouring has swamped nearly every office on Capitol Hill, and I think it reflects a growing sentiment that this new requirement is burdensome and unfair.

I agree, and I have introduced legislation in the Senate, S. 240, to repeal it.

In fact, I co-sponsored an amendment to delete the withholding requirement when it was first offered last summer as part of the so-called Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982.

Unfortunately that amendment failed, and the tax measure -- which I voted against -- was subsequently approved by Congress and signed into law.

A large portion of the correspondence I have received on the withholding requirement is from elderly and middle-income West

Virginians.

The majority of these people are law-abiding citizens who are not out to cheat the federal government, but who faithfully pay taxes each year on the interest and dividend income they earn.

Many of these people are looking forward to the income that accrues from their savings come retirement time, and a reduction in that income would be unwelcome and could be burdensome.

The withholding provision is also an administrative problem for financial institutions -- especially smaller ones -- which will be hit with yet another layer of federal regulations and paperwork in order to comply with the requirement.

Without enactment of the kind of legislation I have suggested, the withholding requirement will go into effect this July 1.

Along with thousands of West Virginians, I hope we will be successful in gaining approval of my legislation to repeal this unjust requirement before it takes effect.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting The Cranberry Wilderness

President Reagan called me recently to tell me that he had signed into law legislation designating the Cranberry backcountry in Pocahontas and Webster Counties as federally protected wilderness.

That call was the culmination of more than a decade of efforts by federal and state legislators, conservationists, and scores of West Virginians interested in protecting the Cranberry wilderness.

The President's telephone call to me came one day after I had met with him at the White House and urged him to sign the Cranberry legislation, which gives wilderness designation to 35,600 acres of Webster and Pocahontas Counties that lie in the Monongahela National Forest.

The law also designates as wilderness 12,200 acres in the Laurel Ridge watershed in Randolph County.

The Cranberry backcountry -- which is known for its thick forests and unique wildlife -- becomes one of the largest wilderness areas east of the Mississippi River.

The legislation ensures that the area will retain its wilderness characteristics by reserving it for activities that will not change the

features of the land, such as backpacking, hiking, and primitive camping.

I have long favored the concept of the Cranberry wilderness, but I felt that reasonable compensation was necessary for Pocahontas and Webster Counties, which will lose considerable revenues as a result of the wilderness designation.

The rights to the minerals beneath the Cranberry area were owned by the CSX Corporation, which made yearly tax payments to Webster and Pocahontas Counties.

Under the wilderness designation, however, CSX will no longer hold those rights, nor will it pay taxes to the counties.

For that reason, I offered an amendment to the Cranberry legislation on behalf of myself and Sen. Jennings Randolph that will set aside up to \$2.2 million to compensate Pocahontas and Webster Counties for those lost revenues.

The Senate and House agreed to our amendment, and it was made a part of the bill that the President signed into law.

The Cranberry legislation was a fair proposal, and with it we have preserved a beautiful piece of West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Solid Proposals

President Reagan and I met at the White House recently to discuss what I believe are solid proposals to get our economy moving again.

In that meeting, which was also attended by Vice President George Bush and Presidential advisor James Baker, I outlined a few of my initiatives for the 98th Congress and asked the President to support those ideas.

President Reagan promised to study my proposals.

In our half-hour conversation in the Oval Office, the President and I talked about my legislation to deepen the nation's coal-shipping ports, which is designed to stimulate the sale of our coal and other products overseas.

I introduced this legislation during the last Congress, and I plan to reintroduce it this year.

With deeper U.S. ports, we would be able to handle the large, economical vessels -- known as super colliers -- that many countries are now using to transport products, especially coal.

West Virginia would benefit if our ports could accommodate the super colliers because of our abundant coal reserves, and by significantly increasing our coal exports we could also improve our balance of trade.

I was pleased when

President Reagan, at my urging, pledged his support for port revitalization legislation during his State of the Union message.

The President and I also discussed my plan for a National Investment Corporation, which would make long-term, low-interest loans to our basic industries, such as the steel and automobile industries. Small businesses would be helped under my proposal as well.

I also spoke to the President about the importance of renewing our efforts to develop a national synthetic fuels program.

We need such a program to make better use of our domestic energy reserves and to help ensure for our country a more secure future by lessening our dependence on foreign countries for our energy supplies.

Another initiative that will be of interest to me during the 98th Congress is my trade measure, which is designed to end the unfair foreign trade practices that have taken a heavy toll in West Virginia and other areas our country in lost jobs and declining industrial production.

Those are a few of my proposals for the new Congress. I hope that the White House will give me its support and work with me to rejuvenate our economy and put our people back to work again.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

DOLLARS FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S FUTURE

Across West Virginia, thousands of men and women have lost their jobs in the last several months -- coal miners, steelworkers, and aluminum industry employees, among others. Today, West Virginia is suffering the highest unemployment rate in the country.

Recently, however, I introduced a bill in Congress that could help turn West Virginia's unemployment crisis around, bringing new life to our coal mines and factories, and new industries to our state.

One of the worst blows befalling American industry in recent years -- including West Virginia industry -- has been rising foreign competition.

Many foreign factories are new and have the latest technology.

Goods from those factories cost less than their competitors' products and can thus outsell many American goods, even in our own markets.

In some countries -- notably Japan, West Germany, and Sweden, for example -- that lower-cost advantage is gained through direct government aid to build those new factories and to buy up-to-date technology.

Too often, those foreign advantages have hit hardest at the industries most closely tied to West Virginia's economy -- automobiles, steel manufacturing, chemicals, and coal, for instance.

One key to winning in today's world market is keeping ahead in research, new plant construction, and innovation -- commercial activities that need large sums of money and

for which some industries have limited funds and little available credit, especially in these times of continuing high interest rates and tight money.

My bill -- the National Investment Corporation Act of 1983 -- would help solve some of those problems. Under that legislation, a National Investment Corporation (NIC) would offer direct loans, investments, and loan guarantees to private business and industry for reasonable, promising, and profitable projects, such as plant construction and remodeling, technological modernization, and new business and industry start-ups.

The NIC would also encourage new plant location in areas plagued by long-term joblessness.

In addition, interest rates for funds borrowed from the NIC would be at or below market levels. Regional NIC offices would work with state and local officials to ensure practical programs and to limit bureaucratic tangles.

Moreover, NIC loans would be repaid on long-, medium-, and short-term bases, providing cash-flow for new ventures and new job-creation.

America needs the National Investment Corporation to help our industries and businesses compete more fairly and efficiently in the heated international arena.

And West Virginia needs the National Investment Corporation to keep our plants and mines running ahead of their foreign rivals, and to make and keep jobs for the people of the Mountain State.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Social Security "Secure"

For more than four decades, Social Security has been a program that millions of Americans have regarded as an extra cushion in their retirement years.

"Security" has been one of the program's strengths: Social Security has been a system on which people have been able to rely.

That aura of reliability has been diminished in recent times, however, as short- and long-term financing problems have threatened the system's future solvency.

The sluggish performance of our economy has added to the system's problems. Rising unemployment has eaten away at the number of workers paying into Social Security, steadily diminishing the monies that would otherwise be flowing into the trust funds.

Many West Virginians have expressed concern to me that the Social Security program will not be there for them when they retire.

One letter from a Mineral County resident that sticks in my mind said, in part: "At the ripe old age of 26, I am often afraid I may not receive my 'fair Social Security share.'"

Ensuring that this West Virginian -- and millions of other people -- do receive their "fair Social Security share" is a top goal of Congress.

Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have begun work on recommendations designed to bolster Social Security's financial foundations.

Those recommendations were made recently by the President's National Commission on Social Security Reform, which was

appointed last year to look into the system's financial problems.

The Commission's proposals are wide-ranging, and would pump an estimated \$169 billion into the system by 1989.

But not all of the recommendations made by the President's Commission have been greeted with a chorus of praise. As with any proposal the magnitude and importance of that recommended by the President's Commission, some elements of the plan have met with resistance. What may be acceptable to one person or group may be a bitter pill to another.

I think there is widespread recognition, nevertheless, that unless some action is taken soon, Social Security could face even greater financial problems in the future. In fact, some experts estimate that we could have a \$150-200 billion shortfall in funds by 1990 unless significant changes are made in Social Security's present course.

Congress's objective will be to take the recommendations of the President's Commission and use them as a starting point for developing an equitable solution to Social Security's problems.

In every regard, however, Congress's emphasis should be on developing a plan that is equitable and fair, and that puts "security" back in the Social Security system.

As another West Virginian, from Berkeley County, recently wrote me: "Please. . . make Social Security secure. I am sick of this insecurity."



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

MAR 9, 1983

Modern Superstition Versus Environmental Science

An old story tells of a long-ago English duke who caught a simple cold. His medieval doctors tried every trick in their book -- incantations, potions, bleeding, purges, herbs -- but nothing worked. In the end, the duke died -- not from the cold, but from the misguided and ignorant "cures" to which the duke was subjected.

Fortunately, modern medicine no longer depends on superstition. But well-meaning people in other fields sometimes let hasty judgments stampede them into costly mistakes and blunders.

Such a folly could be brewing with regard to "acid rain."

Panicked by reports of an increase in the acid quality of some of the lakes and ponds in the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada, which new evidence from New York State tends to show is not true, some have jumped to unscientific conclusions and demanded quick and stringent curbs on coal use in the Midwestern and Appalachian states, automatically assuming that coal is the acid-precipitation culprit.

But many expert scientists are unconvinced of that theory.

Some authorities at Virginia Tech, and the University of Rhode Island, for example, point to automobile exhausts as more likely acid-precipitation producers than coal.

A University of Pittsburgh engineer says that increasing acidity is a natural characteristic of aging lakes and ponds, unrelated to human activity.

One of the world's leading atmospheric scientists at the State University of New York has testified

before Congress that not enough is known about the subject to place expensive new controls on coal-burning power plants and factories.

Of course, we must be concerned with possible threats of acid precipitation to our air and water. But the scientific community is widely divided on the origins and effects of the acid phenomenon.

As a result, we should prudently avoid being locked into lopsided and costly solutions to this problem, particularly until thorough and objective scientific studies on acid precipitation or deposition are completed. The effects of proposed acid deposition controls would be to wipe out jobs in West Virginia and increase consumers' electric utility costs.

With that caution in mind, I recently introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate to tackle the acid precipitation issue in a fair and reasonable manner. My bill would require that, before new acid precipitation regulations were enacted, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would have to make a full study and report to Congress on acid precipitation, setting a deadline of September 30, 1987, for submitting that report.

Certainly, we must get to the bottom of the acid precipitation mystery. But we must also guard against a prejudiced vendetta against coal -- a vendetta that could needlessly cause skyrocketing utility bills for consumers, would cripple industries and destroy jobs in West Virginia and other states, and, like the superstitious remedies that killed the duke, could wind up doing more harm than good.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bus Deregulation Will Backfire

Bus deregulation is about to hit West Virginia like a snowstorm in July -- unwelcome, posing many problems, and making it difficult to get around.

Last year, when the U.S. Senate passed the Bus Regulatory Reform Act, I voted against it, and I warned that the bill would not be good for West Virginia.

That warning, unhappily, is beginning to come true.

Since bus deregulation has gone into effect, Trailways and Greyhound bus lines -- which provide nearly all of West Virginia's bus service -- have filed to abandon most of their West Virginia routes.

In a series of public hearings in January and February before the West Virginia Public Service Commission, which also vigorously fought bus deregulation, the impact of the loss of bus service was demonstrated in human terms.

A teacher of hearing-impaired students from a southern West Virginia county, for instance, testified that he had taken the job and moved into his home county because of the availability of bus service.

Sight-impaired himself, the teacher -- the only teacher of the hearing-impaired in the county -- said he depends on bus service as his only means of transportation. If bus service in his community is eliminated or cut back, he said, he may be forced to leave his job and move out of the county.

In hearing after hearing across the state, West Virginians told how the proposed abandonment of bus routes would hamper

Virginians said the loss of bus service could mean isolation. Unemployed West Virginians without other means of transportation foresaw difficulty in travelling to other towns to look for work. Store owners and doctors who depend on buses to deliver consumer goods and medical products expressed concern that they will find themselves without the products they need.

Efforts are being made on several fronts to stop the wholesale abandonment of bus service in our state. The West Virginia Public Service Commission is fighting to stop the cutbacks. A recent West Virginia federal court ruling temporarily prohibited one bus company from discontinuing its southern West Virginia route.

The last stop for bus companies that want to put the brakes on their small-town service is the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) in Washington, which will make the final decision on whether a bus company can abandon a particular route.

During a recent Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing, I urged ICC Chairman Reese H. Taylor to hold public hearings in West Virginia so his agency could learn firsthand of the hardship created by bus deregulation.

I also urged Chairman Taylor to take the harmful effects of bus service cutbacks into consideration when any requests for service abandonment reach his desk.

My goal is to impress upon the ICC that, just as I predicted, bus deregulation is beginning to backfire in West Virginia



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toward Fair And Equitable Trade

The price of a steak in Japan is about \$35 -- several times the cost in Charleston, Martinsburg, or Wheeling.

That inflated price is largely the result of Japan's strict limits on the amount of foreign beef that can be brought into the country.

That means that America's attempts to sell beef products to Japan have come up against a nearly impenetrable wall of quotas, which has not helped our balance of trade with that country.

At the same time, we face the possibility that the Japanese will step up their steel exports to the United States. Unfortunately, a recent trip to Japan by U.S. Trade Rep. William Brock failed to produce an agreement with the Japanese to limit the amount of steel they send to the U.S. this year.

West Virginia has been devastated by the flood of subsidized foreign steel and other products coming into our country. American steel production is at all-time lows, and thousands of our steelworkers and coal miners have paid for cheap foreign steel imports with their jobs.

West Virginia and America cannot afford to remain the victim of these kinds of unfair foreign trading practices and barriers that are eroding our industrial production and taking away jobs. We need to develop and nurture a world-wide system of fair and equitable trade.

That is why I introduced fair trade legislation in the U.S. Senate last year. My bill -- which sets up a mandatory mechanism to deal with unfair

unfairly subsidized goods into our markets and to make sure our products are treated fairly in foreign markets.

My legislation serves notice that unless action is taken to end unfair foreign trade, some of us in Congress are willing to seek legislative solutions.

Since that time, some encouraging steps have been taken to end unfair trade. The International Trade Commission, for instance, ruled that a number of foreign countries were sending unfairly subsidized steel into our country, to the detriment of our steel industry.

But despite that ruling, we have not been aggressive enough in stopping unfair trade practices, and Ambassador Brock's failure to obtain an agreement with the Japanese on their steel exports is the most recent example of that lack of aggression.

Consequently, I have reintroduced my fair trade bill.

My legislation -- which calls for an annual study of foreign trading practices and requires sanctions against those found in violation of fair trade -- is not an attempt to punish offending trading partners.

Rather, the goal of my fair trade bill is to put our foreign partners on notice that we are serious about fair trade, and to give our negotiators a valuable bargaining tool in dealing with our trading partners.

I want to see world trade carried out on a fair and equitable basis.

And I want to see an end to the type of practices that have taken so many jobs from West Virginians, all the way from McDowell



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fostering West Virginia Coal Exports

More than thirty world ports are now -- or soon will be -- deep enough to handle coal "supercolliers."

Those jumbo-sized ships of 100,000 dead-weight tons or more allow the transport of coal and other products more cheaply than in smaller vessels.

Incredibly, no U.S. port can handle the supercolliers, which require port depths of at least 50 feet.

If America keeps lagging in improving ports, we stand to lose out in the world coal export market.

For West Virginia, which supplies half of all U.S. coal exports, the development of adequate U.S. coal ports is a necessity in keeping West Virginia's economy growing and West Virginians on their jobs.

That is the main reason I have worked for the past few months with several of my Senate colleagues to develop bi-partisan, ports improvement legislation.

That legislation -- which I recently introduced in the Senate with Sen. Mark Hatfield, Republican, Oregon, and Sen. John Warner, Republican, Virginia -- would put port improvement projects on the front burner.

For nearly three years, a stalemate over the best way to go about improving and modernizing our ports has prevented the adoption of legislation for that purpose.

My bi-partisan bill,

however, is a reasonable and carefully crafted compromise that offers a balanced approach to port improvement and maintenance.

Under the bill, ports projects -- such as deepening the coal ports at Hampton, Virginia, or Baltimore, Maryland -- would be funded by a combination of federal appropriations and customs revenues.

A National Port System Trust Fund would be established by my bill to pay for port operation and maintenance. Sixty percent of the fund would come from the general revenues, and 40 percent from a small tax on the value of ships' cargoes.

On a \$55 ton of coal, for instance, that tax would amount to slightly more than a penny.

The bill also puts port improvement projects on a fast track, cutting in half the time it would otherwise take to complete a project.

My primary concern in seeking port improvement legislation is to foster West Virginia's ability to sell coal and other products to the rest of the world on a competitive basis.

If we could ship our coal in 120,000-ton ships, for example, our coal transportation costs could be reduced as much as 40 percent.

That kind of reduction would make our coal attractive to overseas customers, which in the long-run would mean more jobs for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping A Promise

Recently, Congress approved a plan to bolster the Social Security system.

That plan -- based on recommendations made by President Reagan's National Commission on Social Security Reform -- was approved only after long, often emotional, debate in both the House and Senate.

I had some serious reservations about some of the individual elements of the Social Security plan, and, in fact, I wish it had not been necessary to enact that plan at all.

But the alternative to approving the proposal was the possible bankruptcy of the Social Security system -- a prospect that would have been far more painful than the plan adopted by Congress.

In letters, telephone calls, and personal conversations with many West Virginians, one theme was sounded time and again, namely, that though many people opposed one part of

the plan or another, almost everybody voiced the sentiment that something had to be done -- and quickly -- to ensure the future integrity of Social Security and to restore confidence in that system.

Under the Social Security plan adopted, an estimated \$169 billion will be brought into the system over the next several years, which will help offset the estimated \$150-200 billion shortfall in funds expected by 1990.

The solutions to Social Security's problems will not be painless, and, without question, the proposal that Congress approved has its share of bitter pills.

Above all, by approving the Social Security proposal, Congress has demonstrated its resolve in keeping a promise to the American people that the Social Security system will be there for them when they retire.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

We Need A Heavy Industry

At a recent meeting in Pittsburgh, some 120 unemployed steelworkers talked about the computer training program in which they were participating.

Outside the meeting, an estimated 4,000 other unemployed steelworkers demonstrated, protesting the economic conditions that had robbed them of their jobs.

The situation in Pittsburgh shows the choices facing some of our jobless industrial workers today -- should they seek retraining in other, possibly more promising fields? Or should they wait for better economic conditions and a revival of our basic industries?

The answer could be a little bit of both.

Retraining some of our workers and channeling our young people into fields where future job possibilities will be plentiful -- computers, electronics, and other technical disciplines -- is an idea I support.

But the Pittsburgh example clearly demonstrates that we cannot retrain every worker who is currently unemployed, nor would it be wise to do so.

We need a heavy industry in this country, and we need the workers who have made these industries strong. A prospering heavy industry -- steel, mining, glass, automobile, and others -- has traditionally been the foundation of our strength as a nation, both militarily and economically.

But now, some of those industries are suffering. The recession has eaten into our industrial base, throwing thousands

of workers into the unemployment lines and sending production levels to all-time lows.

West Virginia has suffered more than its share from the slump of heavy industry. Our unemployment rate continues to be the highest in the nation -- an intolerable and tragic 21 percent.

I am firmly committed to pursuing a course that will help our basic industries and our workers through this difficult time.

That is why I have introduced several pieces of legislation in the U.S. Senate geared toward reviving and strengthening our basic industries, including:

- a measure to form a National Investment Corporation, which has as its goal the rejuvenation of our basic industries by providing long-term, low-interest loans;

- legislation to improve and deepen the nation's ports so we can sell more of our coal and other products overseas;

- fair trade legislation to make certain that our products are treated equitably in foreign markets and to end the unfair foreign trade practices that are hurting our industries here at home;

- and legislation to speed up the federal study on the causes and effects of acid precipitation before any new regulations to control it -- which could cost jobs and raise utility bills -- are considered.

In the months and years ahead, we should devote our efforts to a plan to revive our basic industries and the jobs that those industries supply.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Only A Small Step

Congress recently approved a \$4.6 billion measure -- the so-called emergency "jobs" bill -- designed to help some of the nearly 12 million Americans who are currently without a job.

That bill is only a small first step in addressing the needs of thousands of West Virginians and millions of Americans whose lives have been turned upside down by unemployment and the continuing recession.

I wanted a larger bill -- one that would have helped put more West Virginians back to work. But President Reagan made it clear that he would veto any jobs bill that carried a higher price tag.

When the jobs measure came before the Senate, I stated that it would not be a true "jobs" bill unless we targeted the majority of the funding to areas like West Virginia, with high and long-term unemployment.

I fought for that targeting in the Senate Appropriations Committee -- with the support of Committee Chairman Mark Hatfield, R-Ore. -- and my amendment prevailed, 20-6. With this amendment, approximately \$3.2 billion of the jobs money would have been targeted to states like West Virginia.

However, when the jobs bill came before the full Senate, we were forced to compromise on our targeting amendment or risk ending up with a bill that provided no targeting at all.

The bill that was eventually approved targeted some of the jobs funding to West Virginia and other hard-hit states -- not as

than no targeting at all.

That targeting ensures that West Virginia will fare better than many states -- and will get its fair share -- under an extremely limited bill.

For example, under only one program in the jobs bill -- the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program -- West Virginia will receive an additional \$10.7 million in fiscal 1983 funds under the bill. Without my targeting efforts, West Virginia would have received only \$6.2 million in additional CDBG monies -- or 42 percent less.

All together, funds under the jobs bill will be channeled through about 40 different federal programs, such as the Community Development Block Grant program I have already mentioned.

Though final figures have not yet been compiled for all those programs, preliminary estimates show that about \$33 million has already been earmarked for West Virginia under some of the programs covered by the jobs bill. That figure could reach \$50 million.

Humanitarian assistance for needy Americans -- such as food and shelter -- was also provided in the jobs measure, as was an injection of funds into the unemployment compensation program, to ensure that benefits were not cut off for those qualified to receive them.

Again, I was disappointed that the jobs bill will provide jobs for only a fraction of those who are unemployed.

The legislation is at least a start, nonetheless, in putting some West Virginians and other Americans



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Making Defense Dollars Count

Congress has been grappling recently with what I believe is one of the most important parts of the federal budget -- that portion dealing with national defense.

Providing and maintaining a strong defense capability for our country -- one that ensures both security and peace -- is among the federal government's foremost responsibilities.

When the federal budget is stretched to the limit -- as it is now -- that job is especially hard, and Congress must do its best to make certain that defense dollars, like other federal dollars, are spent prudently and wisely.

To do otherwise -- to throw huge sums of money at the Pentagon in the hope of achieving a strong national defense -- invites cost-overruns and waste that can erode public support for a stronger defense effort.

I believe that is what many members of Congress had in mind recently when President Reagan proposed his fiscal 1984 defense budget.

The President asked for \$280.5 billion for defense in 1984, which amounts to about a 10 percent real increase, taking inflation into account.

Almost immediately, Republican and Democratic members of Congress expressed reservations about the size of the President's request, as did other people across the nation.

As a result, when the House of Representatives considered the President's

budget request, it included an estimated three percent increase, after inflation, for defense spending.

The Republican-controlled Senate Budget Committee took a similar course, voting 17-4 in favor of a five percent real increase in defense spending for fiscal 1984 -- or \$267 billion.

When Congress takes final action on the fiscal 1984 budget, I believe it will approve a defense spending increase somewhat below the 10 percent increase requested by the President, but still large enough to allow us to continue strengthening and modernizing our defense.

The need for a strong national defense is unquestionable. For years, the Soviets have been outspending us on military programs. The threat they pose is real.

That is one reason I have supported increases in our defense spending over the years -- both on strategic and conventional programs -- and why I have advocated such things as building up our tactical Air Force, developing the "Stealth" strategic bomber, and strengthening our Navy.

But while I support increases in our defense spending, I think those increases should be at levels that will allow for the most effective use of our defense dollars, with a minimum amount of waste, and at levels that our country can afford.

We must make every defense dollar count.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Withholding Requirement Delay?

By a thumping margin of 91-5, the Senate voted recently to delay the imposition of the so-called "withholding requirement."

That is the requirement that directs banks and savings and loan associations to withhold ten percent of the income that savers earn on their interest and dividends, scheduled to go into effect July 1, 1983.

The Senate approved an amendment -- that I cosponsored -- that would delay the imposition of the withholding requirement until July, 1987.

The Senate amendment further stipulated that the requirement could be imposed only if, by that time, fewer than 95 percent of American taxpayers were reporting dividend and interest income, and if a majority of both Houses of Congress voted again to impose the withholding requirement.

The action on the withholding requirement now shifts to the House of Representatives, which also must approve the Senate's amendment before the provision can be delayed.

The withholding requirement has proved to be a very unpopular idea. Since the beginning of this year, nearly 50,000 West Virginians have sent me letters and postcards protesting the requirement, and my congressional colleagues report similar outpourings from their own states.

The people who are protesting have well-

founded concerns. The greatest majority of American taxpayers report their interest and dividend income. They are law-abiding citizens, and are not out to cheat the government.

These people want the use of the income that accrues from their savings, and they do not want to be penalized simply because a small minority of U.S. taxpayers are breaking the law.

I opposed the withholding requirement from the beginning, when it was offered last summer as part of the \$99 billion tax bill.

When that bill -- known as the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 -- was debated on the Senate floor, I cosponsored an amendment to delete the withholding requirement. Unfortunately, the amendment was defeated by a single vote.

Congress went on to approve the tax bill -- the withholding requirement intact -- but I voted against it.

The Senate's recent vote to delay imposition of the withholding requirement may effectively kill the requirement altogether.

But before that can happen, the House of Representatives must go along with the Senate's action on the withholding requirement.

House action on this matter may be taken soon, and I hope that members of the House will agree with the Senate that the withholding requirement should not be put into effect this July 1.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our Interests

In 1982, according to a recent Library of Congress study, the United States sold Third World countries over \$15 billion in military equipment.

That put us at the top of the list in world arms sales, followed by the Soviet Union with \$10.2 billion in 1982 weapons sales.

The growing volume of U.S. arms sales to developing nations -- and the emphasis the present Administration is placing on increasing those sales -- is of great concern to me.

I am concerned that by stepping up our sales of sophisticated military equipment to Third World countries, we may be weakening our own national defense and military security interests.

Already, we have increased our foreign arms sales to the point that we have had to dip into our own military equipment inventory to provide foreign countries with certain arms -- an action that certainly jeopardizes U.S. military preparedness.

Further, we have no guarantee that sometime down the road, that equipment will not be used against us.

The British, for example, found themselves in that position during the Falklands War with Argentina. Some of the arms they

had provided Argentina long before the war began -- certain aircraft, and key components of the Exocet missile -- were used against the British after the war broke out.

A number of my Senate colleagues and I are urging caution on the matter of U.S. arms sales abroad.

First, we have asked the General Accounting Office to take a look at the effects that our foreign military sales have on our own armed forces. Congress needs to have a complete understanding of the consequences of those sales and the impact they have on our defense capabilities -- things that the GAO report will be able to tell us.

Also, I have introduced legislation in the Senate on behalf of myself and several of my colleagues to require congressional approval of all foreign arms sales in excess of \$200 million.

That bill also calls on the President to work with the NATO countries to limit the level of sophisticated weapons sold to developing countries.

Our goal is to have a U.S. arms sale policy that is prudent and wise -- a policy geared toward protecting America's own national security and defense interests.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bidding For Defense Dollars

In fiscal 1982, West Virginia companies won approximately \$139 million in defense contracts.

As any of the West Virginia companies that got those contracts might tell you, the procedure for selling to the Defense Department can be mysterious and confusing.

To give West Virginia business people sound advice on the best way to bid for defense contracts, I have organized two defense industry seminars in West Virginia on June 1 and 2.

I will hold the first of those meetings in Charleston at the University of Charleston's Geary Ballroom on June 1. Scheduled to begin at 1 pm, the meeting should be over between 4 and 5 pm.

The next day, June 2, a second defense industry seminar is planned for Morgantown, at the West Virginia University College of Law, Room 154. That meeting will also begin at 1 pm and last until approximately 4-5 pm.

I will bring with me, to the defense industry meetings, key officials from the Defense Department's procurement office and from the General Services Administration, which is the buying arm of

the federal government. They will be on hand to describe the process of bidding for defense contracts, and to answer any questions West Virginians might have.

I have also arranged for representatives of some large U.S. aerospace and military equipment manufacturers to attend to advise West Virginians on procedures to follow to be considered for defense sub-contracts.

On March 29 of this year, I held a similar defense industry meeting in Washington in which approximately 40 West Virginians took part.

The positive comments I received from many of the participants encouraged me to set up the West Virginia seminars so that more West Virginians could have the benefit of talking with expert federal officials on the procedures for bidding for defense contracts.

I urge all West Virginia business people who are interested in learning more about selling to the Defense Department to join me at one of my West Virginia defense industry seminars, either in Charleston or Morgantown.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Priming The Synfuels Pump

The development of synthetic fuels is in the long-term economic interests of coal-rich states like West Virginia and also in the national security interests.

That is why I have so strongly backed development of a national synthetic fuels industry.

Three years ago, Congress approved legislation that I supported known as the Energy Security Act, which established the Synthetic Fuels Corporation (SFC).

The purpose of the SFC is to financially assist private companies that are pursuing synthetic fuels projects. Federal assistance is necessary if we are to have a workable synthetic fuels effort, given the tremendous costs of undertaking such projects.

Unfortunately, the current Administration has dragged its feet on developing synthetic fuels, despite my strong and consistent urgings and those of other members of Congress who share my interest in "synfuels" development.

The Administration's reluctance has taken its toll: In the time the SFC has been operational, only one synfuels project has received financial assistance.

During those years, private companies interested in pursuing synfuels projects -- in anticipation of receiving federal help -- were forced to give up those projects when federal funding was not forthcoming.

In West Virginia, for example, two companies received feasibility study funding from the Energy

Department for synfuels projects. As the months wore on without further federal aid from the SFC, however, our companies became discouraged and abandoned their synfuels efforts.

In January of this year, I met with President Reagan at the White House and urged him to move forward with a federal synfuels effort. I repeated my strong support for synthetic fuels at that meeting, saying synfuels offered considerable economic benefits for West Virginia, and a large measure of energy security for the nation.

Overall, I am dissatisfied with the lack of progress on a national synthetic fuels effort, as I explained to SFC President Victor Schroeder during a recent meeting in my Capitol office.

I urged during the meeting that the SFC more actively and aggressively encourage synfuels projects in our Eastern coalfields, where we have the coal, water, and population needed to sustain a synthetic fuels industry.

In addition, SFC officials have agreed to my request, and will meet with West Virginia industry representatives on June 13 in Charleston to discuss how the industries can seek financial help from the SFC for synfuels projects.

My aim is to get the SFC headed in the right direction and on the course Congress charted for it in the Energy Security Act: Toward developing a synthetic fuels program that will help fulfill our country's future energy needs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving An Aging Network

Nearly one-third of all West Virginia coal is at some point transported by barge, a factor that makes our inland waterway system a crucial part of our coal transportation network.

But coal is not the only commodity in West Virginia dependent on the inland waterways. Most of our state's industries -- steel, glass, chemicals, and others -- also rely to some extent on the inland waterway system.

Unfortunately, however, that system in some U.S. areas is aging and decrepit, with facilities that have outlived their usefulness, and locks that have become so small and outmoded that river traffic cannot move smoothly through them.

Even more serious, our aging inland water network -- those outmoded facilities on the Kanawha, the Ohio, the Monongahela, and other rivers throughout the country -- was designed to handle only a fraction of the traffic that it now serves.

As a result, bottlenecks along the river system grow worse as our volume of shipping increases, threatening the future growth of West Virginia's coal and other industries.

We cannot afford to let our inland waterways slip further into disrepair. We must act quickly,

which is why I have joined with Sen. John Heinz, Republican of Pennsylvania in an effort to improve the nation's inland waterways.

Our legislation -- known as the National Inland Waterways Urgent Improvement Act -- calls for the rebuilding of the waterway facilities in our country that are in the worst shape, including Gallipolis, on the Ohio River outside Point Pleasant; Winfield, on the Kanawha River in Putnam County; and Lock and Dam 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River outside of Morgantown.

This effort to improve our inland waterways goes hand-in-hand with another of my legislative priorities -- that of improving the nation's ports.

That legislation, which I introduced earlier this year with considerable bi-partisan support, seeks to deepen and modernize our ports so that American goods -- coal in particular -- can be shipped in large and more economical vessels known as "super-colliers," which can carry more than 100,000 tons of coal.

Positive action on both of these bills would give us the start we need in improving a transportation network that is vital to West Virginia's industries and our future economic growth.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Vocal Opposition

West Virginians have been extremely vocal in their opposition to the deregulation of the bus industry, and deservedly so.

Bus deregulation -- just as I predicted -- has not been good for our state.

Officials from the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) -- the final decision-maker in cases where bus companies want to abandon or cut back service -- got a taste of West Virginia's opposition to bus deregulation at a seminar they held June 1 in Charleston.

I think that meeting was useful, and, in fact, I had encouraged the ICC -- during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing earlier this year -- to come to the Mountain State to listen to the concerns that many West Virginians were voicing about the impact of bus deregulation on our smaller towns and communities.

The forum also gave interested West Virginians a chance to talk with ICC officials about ways to minimize the burden of cutbacks in, or outright loss of, bus service -- whether that be by fighting the service cuts, or by working to get other types of public transportation into an affected community.

My opposition to bus deregulation is well-known in West Virginia.

I voted against bus deregulation last year, but unfortunately a majority of both houses of Congress voted to approve it.

During the debate on

the issue, I said that many of West Virginia's smaller communities would be hurt if bus service were cut back or curtailed.

For some West Virginians, especially the elderly and low-income people, bus service is the only means of transportation -- the difference between mobility and isolation.

Also, delivery of medical supplies and certain consumer goods to some West Virginia communities is made by bus, and cutbacks in service would disrupt these important deliveries.

After bus deregulation was signed into law, the two bus companies that provide almost all of West Virginia's service filed to abandon many of their routes.

Abandonment applications are first considered by the State Public Service Commission. If the Public Service Commission rules against the bus companies -- as it has when it determines that adequate alternative service is not available -- the companies can then appeal to the ICC.

That is why I want the ICC to be fully aware of the importance of bus service to many West Virginians, and why I urged the ICC to come and talk with West Virginians about bus deregulation.

Judging from the opposition I have heard from West Virginians across our state, I believe the Charleston meeting impressed upon the ICC the importance we place on reliable bus service.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Successful Seminars

Mention the idea of a small company doing business with the Pentagon, and in all likelihood many will dismiss the thought.

"Too complicated and confusing," they might say; or, "My company doesn't produce a product the Pentagon can use."

I think the two Defense Industry seminars I held in West Virginia recently -- in Charleston and Morgantown -- helped dispell those myths for more than 150 interested West Virginia business people.

My seminars -- featuring key representatives from the Defense Department, the Defense Logistics Agency, the General Services Administration, and from eight large U.S. defense contracting companies -- outlined for our business people the procedures in bidding for defense and other government contracts.

The seminars also stressed the idea that the Pentagon and the federal government buy not just technical defense gadgetry, but also -- as one seminar participant put it -- "everything from soup to nuts."

That list of goods is almost endless -- paper products, building materials, food, clothing, paint, light bulbs, and thousands of other products, as well as defense-related materials such as military hardware, rocket and aircraft components, and sophisticated electronics equipment.

In fiscal 1982, the Pentagon bought approximately \$102 billion worth

of goods. Small businesses provided about \$20 billion of those products.

West Virginia's share of the Pentagon's fiscal 1982 spending was about \$131 million -- a share I hope can be improved by giving West Virginia business people a first-hand look at the best way to compete for defense contracts.

Subcontracts also offer potential for West Virginia's business community, which is why I invited representatives from such large companies as United Technologies, General Electric, Martin Marietta, Northrop Corporation, Hughes Aircraft, Lockheed Corporation, Garrett Corporation, and The Bendix Corporation, to come to our state and explain the process for selling to their companies.

My two West Virginia seminars were a follow-up to a Defense Industry Day I held in Washington on March 29, 1983, attended by about 40 West Virginians.

I was encouraged by the enthusiastic response I received from the West Virginians who participated in those meetings, and I hope the guidance they were given will result in more defense and other government contracts for the Mountain State.

For West Virginia business people unable to attend one of the seminars, I can provide a packet of information on bidding for defense and other government contracts.

To obtain the information, West Virginians should contact my office at 311 Senate Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Breaking The Ports Deadlock

For more than ten years, no important seaport improvement projects have been undertaken in the United States.

Inaction on port improvements grows mainly from a lack of agreement on the best course to follow in upgrading our shipping ports.

Recent action in the Senate, however, may break the harmful deadlock on port improvements -- a deadlock that has allowed our ports to become outdated.

At my request, the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water Resources -- the Senate committee most responsible for port improvements -- has set up a series of hearings on the port improvement bill I introduced on March 21 of this year.

In the first of those hearings, I testified in support of my bill -- which enjoys bi-partisan support -- along with several of my Senate colleagues.

West Virginia exports more coal than any other state in the union. In fact, nearly 50 percent of all U.S. coal exports come from the Mountain State.

Our coal reserves are abundant: Beneath West Virginia's hills lie at least 57 billion tons of high-quality bituminous coal.

That coal will be turned into jobs and increased revenues for West

Virginia if we can maintain, and enlarge, our share of the world coal export market.

To do that, we must be able to provide foreign customers not only with high quality coal, but also with competitively priced coal.

The condition of our coal ports, however, stands in the way of our country's shipping its coal competitively and economically.

Our ports are too shallow for the large, coal-carrying vessels -- the so-called "supercolliers" -- that substantially lessen shipping costs.

While other countries are beginning to ship coal in 100,000-ton or larger supercolliers, that cut transportation costs by an estimated 40 percent, our coal is steaming out of our ports in smaller vessels that make our coal less economically attractive to our foreign customers.

My bill to deepen and modernize our ports has created a growing consensus on how we should carry out port improvement tasks.

Holding hearings on that bill is an important step toward making the kind of port improvements that will put our country in a good position to capture a larger share of the world's coal trade -- and that would be good for West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Accounting For Our MIA's

America's military involvement in the Vietnam conflict ended over eight years ago.

But in those years, one unanswered question remains: What happened to the 2,494 American soldiers -- 26 of them West Virginians -- who are still unaccounted for, our missing-in-action?

We are well past time when we should have received a full accounting for our American MIA's.

To receive that accounting, I believe that we, as a nation, must show a commitment and resolve to end the uncertainty about our MIA's.

That was my purpose in introducing a bill in the U.S. Senate recently to strike a special commemorative medal for Americans missing-in-action from Vietnam.

My bill calls for a special bronze medal to be designed -- by a Vietnam veteran -- struck, and presented by Congress to the families of our MIA's in recognition of the sacrifice and untold hardships endured by our missing soldiers.

Nothing can ever adequately repay the families of our MIA's, who have suffered the continual pain, doubt, and uncertainty of not knowing what has become of their loved ones.

But I hope that through striking such a medal, we can generate a national awareness and a renewed commitment to pursue a full accounting of our missing soldiers.

Such a commitment has already been demonstrated by the families of our MIA's.

They have organized vigils, met with officials, written countless letters and articles with the hope that Americans would not forget the plight of the MIA's.

Groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the National League of Families of POW/MIA's, the Vietnam Veterans Institute, and others, have worked hard to keep attention on our MIA's.

I commend those groups, and particularly the families of our missing-in-action, who are not willing to let America forget that 2,494 soldiers who went to Southeast Asia to serve our country have not yet come home or been accounted for.

We must all join together in a national effort to find out what happened to our American soldiers who are still missing-in-action.

We owe that to our MIA's, to their families, and to our country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Commonsense Approach

The public is being pelted with a variety of explanations for the phenomenon called "acid rain" or acid precipitation.

Recent reports by several groups -- including the National Academy of Sciences -- point to a number of factors that might contribute to acid precipitation, which some claim is causing acidity levels to increase in some bodies of fresh water.

Coal-fired plants in our country's industrial heartland have been targeted in some of the reports as one possible culprit in the acid precipitation phenomenon.

But one common and important thread runs through all of the reports: namely, that no sufficient scientific data base exists on the causes and effects of acid precipitation, nor is there scientific agreement on the best way to reduce its impact on our lakes and other bodies of water.

That is exactly the point I have been making in the acid precipitation debate. We need more research into acid precipitation before we leap into a costly, and perhaps useless, program to control it.

I have found support for my approach from a number of quarters.

In a meeting I had with President Reagan at the White House at the beginning of this year, he agreed that we need to know more about acid precipitation's causes and effects.

And just recently, William Ruckelshaus, the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, met with me in my office and said that there

were many important considerations about acid precipitation to be resolved -- especially the economic impact of an expensive control program.

I urged Administrator Ruckelshaus to back my bill that calls for early completion -- in 1987 instead of 1992 -- of a federal acid precipitation study now underway.

By doing that, we should have a clearer understanding of what is really occurring with respect to acidity levels in lakes.

To take care of the effects of acid precipitation until then, my bill also calls for a grant program for such projects as applying acid-neutralizing lime to lakes that show high acidic levels.

The stakes are too high in the acid precipitation debate to risk enactment of a costly control program that might not work.

Those costs -- including job losses, economic damage to coal and related industries, and higher electric utility bills -- could deal a back-breaking blow to our industrialized areas, and to coal-rich states like West Virginia.

The United Mine Workers predicts, for example, that 80,000 coal miners could lose their jobs if strict acid precipitation controls were enacted.

We must take a careful, commonsense approach in dealing with acid precipitation -- such as the one I have suggested -- and resist the temptation of hastily imposing more federal rules and regulations that could do more harm than good.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Wrong Solution

In 1971, health care cost every man, woman, and child in our country an average of \$394.

By 1981, however, medical care expenses had jumped to an average of \$1225 a person -- more than three times what those expenses had been only a decade earlier.

On the heels of this phenomenal increase in health care costs comes an Administration plan to cut \$37.9 billion from the Medicare program over the next five years.

The Administration made that proposal in its fiscal 1984 budget request, pointing to the long-term financing problems of the Medicare system as one justification for the cuts.

I oppose those cuts, not only because the vast majority of the cuts would come from the elderly and disabled -- two groups that have been socked by skyrocketing health care expenses -- but also because I do not believe that cutting benefits is the way to prevent Medicare's future problems.

Just as I oppose the Administration's suggested Medicare cuts, I have opposed and fought similar cuts in Social Security benefits for the elderly and disabled in the past.

In 1981, for example, the Senate approved a resolution -- that I originally offered along with Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York -- rejecting the Administration's planned cuts in Social Security benefits for

the disabled and the elderly.

Out of that resolution grew the President's National Commission on Social Security Reform, which made recommendations that became the basis of the bi-partisan plan approved by Congress this year to shore up the Social Security system.

Once again this year, I am behind an effort in the Senate to stop the Administration from taking a meat ax to programs that help the elderly and disabled -- programs upon which many of them depend.

Along with Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, I recently offered a resolution in the Senate opposing the proposed Medicare cuts, and focusing instead on the need to find solutions for the Medicare program's future financial troubles.

Without question, adjustments in the Medicare program will be needed to keep it financially healthy, but cutting benefits to the elderly and disabled is not the way to go about helping the Medicare program.

Rather, we must take a careful, well-thought-out look at solving Medicare's problems, and one of the key elements of that solution must be to control runaway medical costs.

Until such a solution is fashioned, I will continue to work to protect Medicare recipients in West Virginia and across the country from bearing the brunt of ill-advised cuts in medicare benefits.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striving For The Honor Roll

On its national report card, our country's educational system is making passing grades, but it is not achieving honor roll status.

This is the conclusion of a number of studies on the nation's schools -- the most notable, perhaps, being the study issued recently by the National Commission on Excellence in Education after 18 months of study.

That report points to some disturbing trends in education, including:

--a drastic shortage of mathematics and science teachers in the nation's public schools;

--minimal math and science requirements in most schools. In an estimated 70 percent of states, only one year of each is required to graduate;

--the abandonment of educational basics -- such as English, math, and science -- for general, non-academic courses;

--and, the failure of American students to keep pace with their counterparts in other industrialized nations in educational skills and knowledge.

"For the first time in the history of our country, the educational skills of one generation will not surpass, will not equal, will not even approach, those of their parents," the report notes.

The sobering tone of the National Commission on Excellence in Education report emphasizes the importance of making a high-

quality educational system one of our country's key priorities.

Today's students will face a world in which the United States will be locked in increasingly keen competition with Japan, Germany, and other industrialized nations for a share of the world's market and the world's jobs.

That competition will demand that our young people be well-equipped with education skills -- particularly math and science, which are crucial to understanding and operating high-technology equipment -- and with a good, basic knowledge of the world market and the techniques of our trading partners.

If our students do not acquire the skills needed to meet the challenges of the future -- and if we do not take steps to make sure our educational system can provide them with those skills -- we risk not only our students' futures, but also our country's future, as well.

We already have the capability, the resources, and the teacher talent to put our country's educational system on the honor roll.

And I believe the recent attention that has been fixed on our educational system -- and the concern expressed nationwide -- should spur us to take the right steps to make sure our students receive the best possible skills and training.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dallas Pike Dedication

Giant strides have been made in coal mine safety in recent years.

In many ways, advances in mining technology and health and safety requirements have meant safer working conditions and fewer accidents for the men and women who work in our mines.

The fight to maintain and improve safe mine conditions is not over, however, as long as we keep suffering mine injuries and deaths.

Last year, 122 miners lost their lives on the job.

While that is far fewer deaths than in past years -- in part because last year fewer miners were actually on the job -- those 122 lost lives mean that our efforts to promote greater mine safety must continue.

That is why facilities like the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) testing laboratories at Dallas Pike in West Virginia's Northern Panhandle are so important.

Recently, I participated in a dedication ceremony for an expansion of those facilities, which will provide additional space to test the safety of

mining equipment.

I was impressed by the operation at Dallas Pike, which is the country's major center for comprehensive testing of mine equipment.

MSHA tests thousands of mine products at Dallas Pike each year, including methane detectors, miner's cap lamps, light equipment, coal scoops, hydraulic fluid, and other equipment, to make sure they will operate safely in our mines.

The expanded MSHA operation at Dallas Pike -- for which I obtained nearly \$5 million in federal funding -- should be completed by the end of this year.

Upon completion, the Dallas Pike facility will offer improved machinery, better technology, and new mining expertise that should mean increased safety for our miners in the years ahead.

While we can be proud of the steps we have already taken toward greater mining safety, we must continue our efforts to give our miners the best possible equipment and working conditions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Promising Investment

West Virginia may soon become the home for a research effort on a revolutionary steel-making procedure that could give our American steel industry a significant technological edge over its foreign competitors.

The procedure is known as direct strip casting, or "melt drag," and the Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved my amendment to fund a three-year research, development, and pilot project effort on this process.

My amendment now awaits the approval of the full Congress.

Current plans call for a pilot demonstration plant to be in Weirton to test the strip casting procedure, with part of the work to be undertaken at National Steel Corporation's Weirton research facility.

Experts tell me that direct strip casting is a fairly simple process.

Molten steel is poured in a continuous ribbon onto a rapidly spinning wheel.

Centrifugal force pushes that steel off the wheel in a strip of uniform thickness and width, and as it flies through the air it is instantly cooled, at a rate of about 3,000 feet per minute.

These steel strips would then be used in the manufacture of appliances, automobiles, and other

products.

The direct casting process would save time and money in the production of steel strips, and it would be energy efficient. We could save the equivalent of 11 million barrels of oil a year by using the procedure, based on present shipments of continuously casted steel sheet.

My amendment provides a \$7 million federal investment in fiscal 1984, followed by \$15 million in 1985, and a final \$8 million in fiscal 1986.

The project would be undertaken by National Steel Corporation in conjunction with Battelle Memorial Institute of Columbus, Ohio, which has pioneered the development of direct strip casting.

A unique feature of my amendment is the pay-back provision, by which the federal government would be repaid up to twice its original \$30 million investment if the procedure is successfully developed and marketed.

Successful application of direct strip casting in our steel mills would put us ahead of our foreign competitors, who have not developed the technique.

That could mean more steel jobs and more steel production for West Virginia and the nation -- a good return on a federal investment.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Message From The Mountain State

More than half of the 17,000 West Virginians who have answered the questionnaire included in my July newsletter see unemployment as the greatest problem facing our country.

West Virginia's widespread worry about continuing joblessness reflects my own deep concern about the 136,000 West Virginians and the millions of other Americans who are still without work.

Though West Virginians are still returning the questionnaire to my office, a preliminary tabulation shows that unemployment tops the list of what West Virginians consider our most serious national problem.

After joblessness, West Virginians listed the following as their greatest concerns, in descending priority: Federal budget deficits; national defense; economic recession; inflation; unfair foreign trade competition; quality of education; high interest rates; and U.S. involvement in Latin America.

West Virginians were asked if the Administration's proposed cuts in federal education funding were consistent with the goal of improving the nation's education system. Sixty-seven percent said

those cuts would not lead to a better national education system, and 33 percent said they would.

When asked if they would support the imposition of quotas or other penalties to end unfair trading practices by our foreign trading partners, West Virginians were overwhelmingly in favor, with 86 percent saying yes, and only 14 percent opposed.

Two final questions focused on the current unrest in Central America. By a margin of 56 to 44 percent, West Virginians said they were opposed to the idea of increasing the number of military advisors to Central American countries.

The second question -- on whether the United States should increase its military role in the Central American region -- drew a more lopsided response. Sixty-three percent of the West Virginians who responded said they were opposed to increasing our military role in Central America, with 37 percent favoring the idea.

This questionnaire supplements the thoughts and viewpoints West Virginians share with me as I travel throughout the Mountain State, and as I read your mail.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Travel West Virginia

West Virginia offers a spectacular array of mountains, lakes, forests, and rivers that each year draw more and more visitors into the Mountain State.

Sightseers, hikers, swimmers, boaters, skiers, and white water rafters have come in increasing numbers to enjoy our state's resources and scenery, and they have made tourism West Virginia's third largest industry, behind coal and manufacturing.

That means jobs for West Virginians and dollars for our state's economy.

Tourism is West Virginia's second largest employer, with over 45,000 West Virginians working in jobs directly or indirectly associated with that industry, according to the state's Office of Economic Development's latest figures.

In 1981, tourism brought \$1.6 billion into our state's economy in direct and indirect sales, accounted for \$74.8 million of our state's tax base, and paid out more than \$255 million in wages for West Virginians working in the tourist industry.

A conscientious effort to bolster tourism in West Virginia -- on the federal, state, and local levels -- has led to the development, improvement, and expansion of national and state parks and recreation areas across the state, from Pipestem in the south to Oglebay Park in the Northern Panhandle.

The growth in our tourist industry -- and its positive impact on West Virginia's economy -- is

proof that these efforts have not gone unrewarded.

And those efforts are still going strong.

Just recently, for instance, I took part in dedication ceremonies for the New River Gorge National River Visitors Center in Fayetteville, Fayette County.

That facility, for which I was able to help obtain \$145,000 in federal funds, will help us to better showcase the scenic New River for the tens of thousands of people who visit it each year.

Further north, in Jefferson County, renovation and expansion continues on the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, which draws an estimated 1 million visitors annually. That work will move forward with funding I was able to have included in the 1984 Interior Appropriations bill.

And, action by Congress this summer will mean that construction will go forward on the Stonewall Jackson Dam and Lake in Lewis County, which will give central West Virginians not only better water supply and quality, but will also provide a major new recreation area for our state.

With a continuation of this kind of commitment, we will be able to share more of West Virginia's natural beauty with visitors from across the country and around the world -- and that will mean a boost for our state's economy and employment for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting Our Economic House In Order

While there may be signs that the nation's economy is headed out of its deep recession, little evidence of that upturn can be found in West Virginia or in many other areas of the country.

Almost one in five West Virginians is still without work -- the highest jobless rate in the country.

In fact, employment in our state's basic industries is down 39 percent from what it had been just two years ago.

So though there may be encouraging indications that our economy is on the mend -- such as lower interest rates (which are still too high), less inflation, and slowly declining unemployment nationwide -- no recovery will be complete until it reaches industrialized states like West Virginia and until the structural problems are solved that are at the root of our economic troubles.

Unfortunately, the slight improvement in economic indicators has apparently convinced some in the Administration and in Congress that policies to strengthen our economic underpinnings can be abandoned for efforts in other areas.

I disagree with that thinking.

I believe that now is the best time -- while some of the country is experiencing a slight recovery -- to solve the problems that are at the foundation of our economic difficulties.

There is a need to:

- reduce federal deficits;
- coordinate monetary and fiscal policies to keep interest rates at reasonable and stable levels;
- stabilize the American dollar, and develop policies that encourage American industries to manufacture new and innovative products, both of which could help make our exports more competitive overseas;
- and foster a relationship among government, management, and labor dedicated to keeping our economy on sound footing.

If we do not take steps to put our economic house in order now, and to strengthen the basic industries that contribute significantly to our economic well-being, we risk throwing the country into another deep recession.

And that is a risk we cannot afford to take.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Buffer Against Joblessness

For thousands of West Virginians and millions of other Americans, unemployment insurance has helped buffer the impact of losing their jobs.

Unemployment insurance has meant that jobless families can pay the mortgage or rent, meet energy bills, or simply put food on the table.

Unfortunately, however, the program is so complicated and the recession so severe that jobless families are not getting the cushioning Congress intended when it devised the program.

In West Virginia, for example, 11,000 jobless workers have exhausted their unemployment insurance since April, which has left many of those workers in serious financial difficulty.

The best solution is to get the economy moving again and to get our workers back on their jobs.

But until that happens, the unemployment insurance program should be revamped to give the maximum amount of help to those who need it.

That is what legislation I recently introduced in the U.S. Senate would do.

The current unemployment insurance program provides three tiers of benefits -- basic benefits, extended benefits, and federal supplemental benefits.

Jobless workers generally receive between 26 and 55 weeks of unemployment insurance, depending on where they live, that state's requirements, and the un-

employment rate there.

In West Virginia, for instance, unemployed workers can get 28 weeks of basic benefits, 13 weeks of extended benefits, and 14 weeks of supplemental benefits.

But while unemployment is above ten percent in 20 states and jurisdictions, red tape in the program makes it possible for only five states -- fortunately, West Virginia among them -- to qualify for extended benefits.

That means that thousands of workers in areas hard-hit by the recession are not receiving the help that they need.

Further, the supplemental benefits program must be reauthorized by Congress, risking an interruption or discontinuation of benefits that could be devastating to families that depend on them.

My bill -- a bi-partisan effort co-sponsored by Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa. -- would simplify and consolidate the extended and supplemental benefits into one program to provide the greatest help to the jobless in areas suffering most from the recession.

Basic benefits -- the first tier of the program -- would not be affected.

We need that major overhaul in the unemployment insurance program, so that people who have to have unemployment insurance know what help is available and how to get it, and so that those who manage the program can do so in an efficient and effective manner.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting The Stealth

The Pentagon has a new strategic aircraft on its drawing board that, in years to come, could give our national defense effort a significant boost.

That aircraft is commonly called the "Stealth" bomber, and it is a technologically advanced plane that will have the capability, over a long period, of slipping into Soviet airspace undetected.

Because of its sophisticated technology, the Stealth will be able to render billions of dollars worth of Soviet air defenses virtually obsolete until the end of this century and into the next. This capability would give America an edge in the vital air defense arena.

That makes the Stealth aircraft important to our future national defense efforts -- so important, in fact, that I recently offered an amendment to the 1984 defense authorization bill to protect the Stealth's future development.

My amendment, which was approved by the Senate, would prevent the Pentagon from rechanneling funds meant for the Stealth into other defense programs.

I see the possibility of

such a siphoning of funds from the Stealth development effort because it is carried out in top secret. This necessary secrecy has prevented the Stealth program from gaining widespread national following.

That lack of a national voice -- pressing for the continued development of the Stealth -- could make the aircraft vulnerable if the Pentagon sees cost overruns in other areas and is tempted to "borrow" from the Stealth account to make up for those overruns.

Despite the fact that it is a highly classified program, several things are known about the Stealth.

As a versatile aircraft, the Stealth can perform a full range of missions, and it represents the best that our advanced technology has to offer.

All reports indicate that the Stealth's development is on target and progressing satisfactorily.

That progress on the Stealth will be protected because of my amendment, and I am encouraged that the Senate adopted my amendment and agrees that development of the Stealth strategic aircraft is a key part of a strong national defense.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Business For West Virginia

Northrop Corporation's small business director, Jay Cooper, wrote me a letter recently to tell me that his company has placed more than a half-million dollar's worth of new orders with West Virginia companies since June of this year.

The significance of his news is that Northrop -- a large, California-based aircraft company -- was one of eight defense contractors represented at the two defense industry seminars I held in West Virginia on June 1 and 2.

I organized the meetings so that interested West Virginians could get first-hand and detailed information on bidding for defense contracts and sub-contracts.

I also invited to the seminars officials from the Defense Department, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the General Services Administration, who offered their expertise and advice on doing business with the Pentagon and other government agencies.

The West Virginia meetings followed a successful defense seminar I held in Washington at the end of March, which drew nearly 50 West Virginia business people. A total of almost 250 West Virginians took part in the three seminars.

Apparently, those seminars are beginning to bear fruit.

A second defense industry day participant, Bendix Corporation, reports that since the seminars, inquiries from West Virginians interested in doing business with the company have surged.

Martin Marietta Corporation, a third participant, has sent almost four dozen detailed information packets on selling to the company to interested West Virginians.

These early results are encouraging, and I believe they show that West Virginia companies can play a larger role in supplying some of the billions of dollars worth of items purchased each year by the Defense Department, defense contractors, and other areas of the federal government.

The key to increasing West Virginia's role is for our business people to become familiar with procurement procedures, learn the bidding system, find out what the government and other companies need, and get on the bid lists that best suit their products.

That was the purpose of my three defense industry seminars, and I hope that Mr. Cooper's letter on his company's new business with West Virginians is the first of more defense contracts and sub-contracts for Mountain State businessmen.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Brutal Act

The Soviet Union's act in shooting down an unarmed Korean passenger airliner, killing 269 innocent people, was brutal and inexcusable.

In committing such a deed, the Soviets have brought down on their country the condemnation of the United States and most of the rest of the free world -- condemnation that is justified and appropriate.

The Soviets owe the world a full and truthful explanation for this deed, as well as an apology, compensation for the families of the victims, and firm assurances that such an act will not be repeated.

In the days following the tragedy, I made those points to President Reagan. I met with him about the incident at the White House, along with other congressional leaders, and spoke with him again, on the telephone, immediately following his national television address on the situation.

I thought the President's speech was tough in tone, but that he was restrained in his actions. While I fully support the measures outlined by the President, I would have preferred that his Administration take stronger, more forceful actions against the Soviets.

My suggestion to the President was that his Administration try to work

with other nations to impose stiff trade sanctions against the Soviets. A coordinated effort by many countries to impose sanctions against the Soviet Union could prove effective, and would let the Soviets know -- beyond question -- that their actions are not condoned by, nor are they acceptable to, the civilized world.

I also believe that we should cancel our recently negotiated grain agreement with the Soviets, at least until they explain the incident, apologize for it, compensate the victims' families, and give assurances against a similar occurrence.

The last grain embargo -- imposed by the United States after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan -- hurt the Soviet Union, costing it a billion dollars and making it eager to sign the latest grain agreement with our country.

No explanation offered by the Soviet Union can justify its immoral act in ambushing an unarmed, civilian plane full of unsuspecting travellers of many nationalities.

But the Soviet Union must be made to understand -- by the strongest possible actions -- that its reprehensible act will not be tolerated, nor will it be forgotten, by the rest of the world.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Congratulations, Weirton Steel!

Eighteen months of hard work and determined effort by thousands of West Virginians brought triumph to the city of Weirton recently when the employees of Weirton Steel voted overwhelmingly to purchase and run their company, one of the state's largest employers.

Close to 90 percent of the estimated 8,000 workers voting said they favored the employee-takeover -- an impressive display of unity that bodes well for the future of Weirton Steel.

The vote by Weirton Steel employees to buy their company was a success for many West Virginians.

It was foremost a success for Weirton Steel's management, unions, and employees, who pulled together and showed a determination -- from the day that National Steel announced its plans to sell their Weirton plant -- that they would do whatever was necessary and reasonable to buy and operate Weirton Steel.

It was a success for the people of Weirton and the surrounding area, who rose to the challenge, holding fundraisers and backing the effort to take control of the town's largest and most

important employer.

It was a success for countless local, state, and federal officials, who joined in the effort by cutting through redtape and regulations and by finding ways to provide financial help for the Weirton Steel venture.

Weirton can be justifiably proud, and all West Virginians can take satisfaction in the achievements of Weirton Steel and its ambitious goal to become one of the country's largest employee-owned companies.

But the struggle to make Weirton Steel a workable, employee-owned company will continue.

While a major hurdle was cleared in the recent vote by Weirton Steel employees to purchase their company, much work remains to be done to keep the company profitable and competitive.

But Weirton Steel's employees have shown everybody -- their community, West Virginia, the country, and the people who buy their steel -- that they have the determination to successfully run their company and to continue doing what they have done best over the years -- making steel products and making them well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toll-Free Assistance For West Virginians

In one of my recent newsletters, I included some toll-free numbers for federal agencies that I thought would be helpful to West Virginians.

Because of the response I received, I am reprinting some of those numbers, and adding a few

new numbers.

Some of them will help you with state-related problems, and others with federally related matters.

As always, my office stands ready to be of assistance to any West Virginian who needs help with a federal problem.

Consumer Product Safety:	1-800-638-8326
State Income Tax Help:	1-800-642-9016
Consumer Sales Tax Help:	1-800-642-8698
Federal Income Tax Help:	1-800-543-7200
Insurance Department:	1-800-642-9004
State Labor Department:	1-800-642-9100
State Fuel and Energy Office:	1-800-642-9012
Motor Vehicles Department:	1-800-642-9066
State Park Reservations, Travel Information:	1-800-642-9058
Public Service Commission:	1-800-642-8544
Social Security Administration:	1-800-848-0106
Teachers Retirement:	1-800-642-8509
Veterans Benefit Counseling:	1-800-642-3520
Workman's Compensation:	1-800-642-9091
Child Abuse:	1-800-352-6513
Toll Free Operator:	1-800-555-1212

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Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Rain: Calling For Caution

The voices calling for caution on the course to follow on acid precipitation control plans have been persistent, but lately they seem to have been drowned out by those shouting for drastic measures to deal with "acid rain."

Mine has been one of the voices urging caution -- and saying loudly and clearly that we do not know enough about the causes and effects of acid precipitation to enact strict controls that would be costly, especially to West Virginia and other coal states, and could be ineffective.

A strong and welcome voice has joined those of us calling for restraint -- that of Energy Secretary Donald Hodel.

In a recent meeting in my office, Secretary Hodel assured me that he shares my concern over the prohibitive costs of strict acid rain control plans now under consideration by the Administration.

Secretary Hodel agreed with me that strict controls would mean that the price of energy for the whole country would be higher.

Even more encouraging was Secretary Hodel's comment that others in the President's Cabinet Council -- which is advising President Reagan on a course to pursue on acid rain -- have raised questions about the effectiveness of any acid precipitation control plan that calls for multi-million-ton re-

ductions in sulphur dioxide.

That kind of control plan would devastate West Virginia and other coal states, costing West Virginia alone millions of dollars, thousands of jobs, and hefty increases in electric utility bills.

The Energy Secretary is one of a number of Administration officials I have met and talked with recently to seek support for my position on acid precipitation.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Ruckelshaus has been in my office several times to discuss acid rain.

And earlier this year, I met at the White House with President Reagan, who agreed with me that we need to have more scientific data on acid rain before we embark upon a costly -- and perhaps destructive -- course.

I recently contacted the President again, this time by letter, and urged him to reiterate his earlier position and reject any acid rain control plans that single out Appalachian and Midwestern coal and electric utility industries as the culprits wholly responsible for acid rain.

In the next several weeks, as the Administration looks carefully at a number of acid precipitation control plans before it, I will continue to raise my voice in opposition to any plan that unfairly penalizes West Virginia and other states.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Selling Coal To Japan

Japan is an important buyer of American coal, particularly our metallurgical coal.

In 1981, for instance, Japan bought approximately 20 million tons of our metallurgical coal. Much of that coal was from West Virginia, the country's leading coal exporting state.

That is why a drop in that trade -- as we experienced last year when Japan bought only 12 million tons of American metallurgical coal -- is a matter of great concern to me.

I discussed this recently with Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Sosuke Uno, in a meeting in my Capitol office. Mr. Uno is the head of one of Japan's most powerful ministries, and he plays a major role in the formulation of Japan's economic and trade policy.

My purpose in meeting with Trade Minister Uno and a delegation of Japanese trade officials -- including the co-chairman of the U.S.-Japan Energy Working Group, which has been meeting to improve the energy relationship between our two countries -- was to explore ways to step up our coal sales to Japan.

The United States, and West Virginia in particular, is one of Japan's most reliable and stable coal suppliers, a fact the Japanese Trade Minister readily acknowledged.

And without question, our metallurgical coal and our steam coal are of high quality -- another important factor to the Japanese.

In response to my statement

that I hoped we could sell more of our coal to Japan, Mr. Uno indicated the desire on the part of his country to increase its coal imports from America as soon as the Japanese economy -- which has been sluggish -- improves.

I also discussed with the Japanese delegation the possibility of increasing Japan's imports of West Virginia steam coal. While most of the coal that we ship to Japan is metallurgical, I believe the prospect is good for the development of a growing steam coal market in Japan.

The Trade Minister pointed out during our meeting that Japan can purchase coal more cheaply from countries that can ship their products in supercolliers -- giant vessels that can carry 100,000 dead-weight tons or more.

I told Mr. Uno of the role I was playing in improving the nation's coal transportation network, including my legislation to modernize and deepen our coal ports so they can handle the economical supercolliers.

The Japanese Trade Minister agreed that improvements to our coal transport network -- especially port improvements -- would make our coal more economically attractive to Japan and other countries.

I believe my meeting, with Trade Minister Uno and the rest of the Japanese delegation, was an important first step in developing a continuing dialogue between West Virginia and Japan that could benefit West Virginia and our coal industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding Our Use Of Coal

Ten years ago, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cut off its oil exports to the United States.

The resulting misery for millions of Americans -- long lines at the gasoline pumps, talk of rationing, and fuel prices that doubled almost overnight -- spurred a reawakening of national interest in one of our most abundant and versatile natural resources: Coal.

West Virginians did not need to be "reawakened" to coal's advantages. With our vast reserves of high quality steam and metallurgical coal, West Virginians have long been in the forefront of promoting coal's greater use.

In 1961, for example, I led a successful effort to establish a federal Office of Coal Research, and since then I have spearheaded or supported many programs and policies to encourage the production and use of our coal and the development of coal-based technologies.

But, unfortunately, the zeal with which West Virginians promote coal is not shared by all Americans.

In the years since the 1973 OPEC oil embargo, for example, our relatively stable oil supplies have allowed the memories of long gasoline lines to fade, and some people apparently have forgotten about the promise that coal holds for our energy future.

Recently, though, increasingly strident calls for strict controls on sulphur dioxide emissions -- in what I believe is a misguided effort to cut back on "acid rain" --

have refocused the need for research and development of technologies to use our coal cleanly and efficiently.

I recently introduced a bill in the Senate calling for such a research and development effort, with the goal of increasing our use of coal by allowing it to be burned in an environmentally sound manner.

My bill is aimed at producing -- within a five-year period -- technology and equipment that industries can use immediately to burn coal with a minimum amount of pollution.

Some of those technologies would include new ways to prepare coal; research into pre- and post-combustion clean-up of flue gases; and development of advanced coal utilization processes such as fluidized-bed combustion, fuel cells, and diesel and gas turbine engines that could use coal.

Successful development of such coal technologies will need a broad base of support, and to achieve that, my bill provides for a cooperative effort among the federal Department of Energy and its Energy Technology Centers, private industry, and national laboratories and universities across the country.

The realities of the acid rain debate make it essential for us to quickly develop new technologies -- such as I have prescribed in my bill -- that will allow us to expand and maximize coal use while meeting our country's environmental goals.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Tragic Loss

The barbaric attack on our Marine compound in Beirut -- resulting in the loss of more than 220 American soldiers -- was an atrocity that has caused pain for all Americans.

That act calls into question the presence of our troops in Lebanon, and demands a full explanation by the Administration of not only the purpose, but also of the scope of our mission in Beirut as part of a multi-national peacekeeping force.

In the days since the Beirut attack, many West Virginians have contacted me to ask why American soldiers are still in Lebanon. They want to know why we are risking the lives of our young men, and how long the Administration plans to keep American soldiers in Lebanon.

Those are some of the questions that I have been asking of the Administration. I asked those questions when Congress debated a resolution several weeks ago giving the President 18 more months to keep our military forces in Lebanon -- a resolution that I voted against.

I asked those questions again recently, in the wake of the brutal terrorist attack on our soldiers, and I have yet to receive satisfactory answers.

Further, the President had assured Congress and the American people that our forces in Lebanon were being "adequately" protected. I do not believe that that was the case.

Early reports from Beirut following the at-

tack -- though unconfirmed by the Pentagon -- indicate that our Marines on guard duty were not permitted to carry loaded weapons. If those reports are accurate, we are subjecting our troops to extremely dangerous and unacceptable conditions -- conditions that place them in the position of "sitting ducks" for such attacks.

I believe we need to do everything possible to hasten the departure of our American troops from Lebanon, in concert with Great Britain, France, and Italy, which are also part of the multi-national peacekeeping force.

One way to accomplish that would be to send a peacekeeping force -- such as a force from the United Nations -- to Beirut that is truly "neutral," and, therefore, could be more effective in its mission.

A United Nations contingent could take over for the present peacekeeping forces -- which are no longer perceived as being "neutral" -- and attempt to provide an atmosphere in which warring factions in Lebanon could be brought together in an effort to restore the country to stability.

Until we can bring our American fighting men home, however, we must take every step to ensure them the greatest measure of protection and safety so that they will not again suffer the kind of tragic loss experienced in the Beirut bombing.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Unnecessary Gamble

The Federal Aviation Administration has come up with a plan to close 52 air traffic control towers nationwide over the next three years, with Clarksburg, Lewisburg, Morgantown, and Wheeling on its hit list.

That plan is unwise and unsafe, and I am working against its enactment.

Already, I have met with Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole in my office to tell her why I believe West Virginia's towers should remain in operation.

I described to Secretary Dole West Virginia's rough terrain and our changeable weather, which often causes heavy fog and other conditions that make air travel in and out of our state tricky.

I shared these same concerns with FAA Administrator Helms, and with members of his staff who came to Capitol Hill to testify on the plan before the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

Those hearings by the subcommittee -- of which I am a member -- were held at my request so the FAA could be questioned on how it developed the plan and so we could relay our opposition to the idea.

The answers we received from the FAA officials were disturbing, especially when they admitted that a certain measure of safety for air travellers would be compromised by closing the towers.

That response prompted me to tell FAA officials that I would never agree to trade lives for taxpayers' dollars.

I also questioned FAA's usage statistics for the four West Virginia towers -- statistics that are lower than figures I have received from West Virginia airport officials. I believe my figures are a more accurate reflection of the number of flights in and out of the four airports.

But aside from the amount of activity at the targeted West Virginia airports, each has a special importance that I described to the FAA.

Clarksburg is an important hub for many flights in and out of the Mountain State.

Lewisburg, location of the Greenbrier Resort, draws thousands of people to West Virginia each year, many of whom fly into the airport in corporate or passenger planes.

Morgantown is the home of Northern West Virginia's only designated trauma center and intensive care neonatal unit, and the airport receives many emergency flights.

And Wheeling Airport, which had approximately 71,000 operations last year, also handles daily exercises of the Air National Guard and National Guard Helicopter Unit.

The FAA officials admitted during the hearing that they had not made a final decision on the tower closings, and I believe they now have a clear understanding that I, and other members of the subcommittee, will do our best to prevent the FAA from gambling with the safety of air travellers by shutting down needed air traffic control towers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Second Look

Every four years, American voters have the chance to elect a President for our country -- by re-electing the sitting President or selecting a new one.

And whether voters re-elect a President or choose a new one, their votes are cast for a variety of reasons -- they agree with his policies in one area or another, they feel comfortable with his style or what he stands for, they like his position on a particular issue.

The point is that we have a *choice* every four years on who leads our country, and that choice is central to our democratic process.

When a President wins a second four-year term, however, the Senate does not have a chance to reconfirm or reject his top cabinet and cabinet-level officials who have such an important role in running our government.

I think the Senate should have a say in whether a re-elected President's top people remain in their jobs for the President's second term, and to accomplish that I will soon introduce a bill in the Senate requiring the reconfirmation of the highest-level appointed officials in the government.

Those officials would include all cabinet Secretaries; the directors of the

Central Intelligence Agency, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Arms Control Disarmament Agency; the U.S. Trade Representative; and the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

By requiring the reconfirmation of cabinet-level appointees, the Senate would have a chance to look over such appointive official's public record, to rate his or her job performance, and to determine if that official has been effective or ineffective in carrying out public policy.

In recent years, instances have arisen in which a cabinet officer has received Senate confirmation -- many times in the belief that a new President should be given wide latitude in choosing his own top people -- and later has been less than effective in carrying out public policy.

Top officials of our government who hold the important jobs of formulating and executing public policy should be as accountable as our President, and if these individuals are in a position to remain in office for another four years, I think the people's elected Senators should have the opportunity to review the record and to once again provide their advice and consent to a particular nominee's conduct and performance in office.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Social Security Disability: We Must Make Improvements

Since the Social Security Administration began its aggressive reviews of social security disability recipients in March of 1981, more than 1.1 million Americans have been subjected to the review procedures.

Nearly 40 percent of those Americans -- or more than 420,000 recipients -- have seen their benefits terminated under these new procedures.

Behind these statistics are tens of thousands of truly disabled Americans -- people who have little or no hope of finding or keeping a job -- that eventually and rightfully have had their disability benefits restored.

I have heard the same story again and again from many West Virginians who have had their disability benefits cut off -- people who are entitled to benefits and who eventually have them reinstated after months of appeal efforts.

Those months of uncertainty have caused anguish and anxiety for thousands of disabled individuals, a situation that moved Congress to ensure that those who had been ruled ineligible for disability benefits would continue to receive benefits until an administrative law judge had time to make a final determination.

The original intention of the disability reviews was to weed out those who were unjustly receiving benefits. In carrying out the reviews, however, the Administration has been overzealous and careless,

and many qualified and truly disabled people have suffered as a result.

That is why we must act to correct major problems with the social security disability program -- a point I made recently on the Senate floor.

I co-sponsored an amendment that would have provided a starting point for making the badly needed changes in the social security disability program. Unfortunately, that amendment was defeated by a 49-46 margin.

However, I have also co-sponsored a bill to accomplish that same goal. Among other things, that bill would require the Social Security administrator to:

- conduct reviews in a reasonable manner, using complete and recent medical histories and information;

- provide proof of medical improvement before declaring a person ineligible for benefits;

- use face-to-face hearings for applicants and current beneficiaries who are denied eligibility;

- and continue the emergency practice of paying benefits to those declared ineligible in disability reviews until an administrative law judge rules in the case.

We owe our disabled Americans a disability program that works as it is supposed to work, and that offers the kind of help that disabled Americans justifiably deserve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pinpointing Wasteful Spending

Imagine spending \$435 for a hammer. Or \$437 for a 12-foot tape measure.

As incredible as that seems, there are reports that these are the prices the U.S. Navy paid one of its suppliers for those items.

Tales of the Pentagon spending stunning sums of money for such small items have been surfacing recently, and such reports demand a full investigation into the procedures used in buying spare parts.

I have persuaded the Senate to call for an investigation to find out if there is, indeed, waste and sloppiness in the Pentagon's spare parts buying practices.

My amendment, to the 1984 defense spending bill, requires the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) to take a close look at how the Pentagon buys spare parts, for which it spends an estimated \$13 billion a year.

The OFPP was created in 1973 as the Executive Branch's central office on federal procurement practices. Part of its responsibility is to give Congress recommendations on how the government's buying habits can be improved, and I believe the OFPP could be effective in pinpointing ways for the Pentagon to purchase spare parts more economically.

In response to reports of wasteful defense spending, Defense Secretary Weinberger instituted a reform program to improve the way the Pentagon orders and buys spare parts.

Under my amendment, the OFPP would take a look at those reforms, decide if they are working, and report to Congress no later than June 1, 1984, on whether the Pentagon is using practices and procedures to get the best prices for the tax dollars it is spending.

The OFPP, in close cooperation with the Defense Department's inspector general, would also be required to give Congress guidance on legislation it might enact to ensure that the Pentagon is buying its spare parts in the most cost-effective way.

Providing funds for our national defense is important, and we must make every effort to see that such funds are channeled wisely and are being used to their maximum effectiveness.

Spending hundreds of dollars on an item that might cost \$10 at the local hardware store is not only an abuse, but it also jeopardizes our national defense efforts by wasting precious dollars that could be used, instead, on equipment and programs that make real contributions to our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress On Acid Rain

Scientists recently appeared before the Senate Environment Committee to talk about acid rain -- its possible origins, causes, and effects.

What came out of that hearing underlined my position that scientists still disagree on whether strict acid rain controls are needed or would work.

I also testified at that hearing, saying that West Virginia's economy would be severely damaged if new controls were clamped on coal-burning facilities.

In my testimony, I cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that made clear that scientists do not know if steep reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions from Midwestern and Appalachian coal-fired powerplants would really protect sensitive areas of the Northeast.

I have repeatedly criticized that suggested approach, which would cost thousands of jobs, boost electric bills, and devastate the economies of West Virginia and other states, with no guarantee that such

limits on sulphur dioxide emissions would help in the battle against acid precipitation.

My approach, which I outlined for the committee, is to speed up the federal study now underway on acid rain, so that scientific information on its causes and effects would be available in 1987 instead of 1992.

I have a bill in the Senate that would accomplish that, and that would, in the meantime, make grants available to ease any adverse effects of acidity on lakes and streams.

I believe the scientific confusion about acid rain, and the calls by some of us for a cautious approach in dealing with it, have slowed the drive to impose hasty and perhaps unwise and ineffective restrictions on sulphur dioxide emissions.

In that respect, we have made progress in fending off potentially damaging, and possibly useless, requirements that could hurt West Virginia and other coal states.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotline Help For West Virginians

For many West Virginians with federally related problems or questions, help can be just a telephone call away.

The federal government maintains many toll-

free hotlines for those with questions or difficulties of a federal nature.

Listed below are some hotlines that may be useful to West Virginians.

-
- Consumer Product Safety Commission-----1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints)
 - Retired Army Pay Problems-----1-800-428-2290
 - Army Employment Information-----1-800-872-2769
 - Marine Corps Employment Information-----1-800-423-2600
 - Navy Employment Information-----1-800-327-6289
 - Internal Revenue Service Taxpayer Help-----1-800-424-1040
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency-----1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)
 - National Health Information Clearinghouse-----1-800-336-4797
 - Small Business Administration-----1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)
 - Transportation Department-----1-800-424-9393
(automobile safety complaints)
 - Federal Home Loan Bank Board-----1-800-424-5405
(mortgage rate information)
 - White House News-----1-800-424-9090
 - Social Security Administration-----1-800-848-0106
(medicare questions)
 - Veterans Benefits Counseling-----1-800-642-3520



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tackling Runaway Deficits

Between 1946 and 1974 -- 29 years -- the United States government accumulated budget deficits totalling nearly \$150 billion.

Contrast that with the anticipated deficit for 1984 -- nearly \$200 billion *for just one year.*

Unfortunately, the gigantic budget shortage projected for fiscal 1984 is not an aberration: In each of the next three fiscal years, deficits in excess of \$150 billion are predicted.

Any hope of achieving a long-term economic recovery will be jeopardized if the U.S. government continues to run large budget deficits, which drive up interest rates and strangle investment in new businesses, homes, and plant and equipment -- in short, the type of investment that strengthens the chances for a lasting economic recovery.

Our budget shortfalls must be brought under control, and accomplishing that will require a unified effort by the Administration and Congress.

Unfortunately, the Administration -- which must bear a large share of the responsibility for our

deficits because of its disproportionate tax cuts for the wealthy and skyrocketing Pentagon spending (some of which is wasted) -- has remained on the sidelines, refusing to cooperate in efforts to erase some of our red ink.

I believe one way to bring the Administration and Congress together on a course to reduce budget deficits would be to establish a bi-partisan commission on deficit reduction.

That commission -- made up of qualified and responsible individuals -- would be given the task of developing a plan to lower budget deficits.

We have had success with such commissions in the past, the most recent being the national commission on social security reform, which last year suggested a plan to put the ailing system back on a sound financial course.

I think that a national commission on deficit reduction could lay the groundwork for a bi-partisan effort to tackle runaway deficits which, if left unchecked, will further weaken our already fragile economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Jobless Need More Help

I think we need a complete revamping of our unemployment insurance program to make it permanent and to ensure that it is responsive and effective, especially in these times when many millions of Americans are still out of work.

That is one of the goals of a bill I have introduced in the Senate, which would not only make Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) benefits available whenever we have large numbers of jobless Americans, but that also would cut "red tape" and consolidate the unemployment insurance program so that it would be easier to understand and administer.

When Congress was considering the FSC extension earlier this year, I urged that it undertake the kind of sweeping overhaul of the program envisioned in my bill.

The difficulty Congress experienced in hammering out the last minute compromise between the House and the Senate on extending FSC underlines the critical need for a permanent program that automatically provides benefits when joblessness is high.

Additionally, many jobless West Virginians and Americans were needlessly panicked by the delay in extending the program, and feared that inaction by Congress would mean a cut-off of funds that many would need to feed their families and pay the rent.

While the comprehensive reorganization my bill would have provided was not part of the final FSC

extension, some elements of my proposal were included in the measure.

States can now use a more realistic yardstick in qualifying for Federal Supplemental Compensation benefits. This new "yardstick" will provide extra help for the unemployed in West Virginia and a number of other states.

The bill extending FSC also made some other important changes in the program that I suggested to simplify its administration and to make it easier for those receiving benefits to understand.

I attempted to add up to eight extra weeks of benefits for those who had exhausted all other unemployment insurance, but my idea was not adopted by the Senate. The defeat of my proposal was largely on a party-line vote.

The final compromise contained at least a part of what I fought for in the Senate by providing up to five extra weeks of coverage for those who began receiving FSC on or after April 1, 1983.

While I am pleased that the FSC bill approved by Congress incorporates many of my suggestions, I do not believe that it provided enough help for those who are jobless because of the effects of the worst recession since before World War II.

I believe that we must streamline and improve the bureaucratic morass that is now our unemployment insurance program, and I will continue to work toward this end.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Boosting America's Economy

Economic policies in recent years have left us with back-breaking joblessness, staggering budget deficits, soaring interest rates, anemic industrial production, and a record imbalance in our trade with foreign countries.

One of the most damaging aspects of those economic policies has been the steady and alarming erosion of America's ability to compete head-to-head with many of our foreign trading partners.

That erosion threatens our economic well-being and could mean the loss of many more American jobs.

We need to take actions to rejuvenate our American industries -- such as steel, mining, oil and gas, glass, chemicals, and lumber -- and to provide more jobs for our workers.

Earlier this year, I appointed a Senate task force to develop such a plan, and work was recently completed by the task force on a proposal that I believe could help our industries regain an edge over foreign rivals.

At the center of that plan is an advisory committee -- composed of representatives from business, labor, government, and the public -- to develop a national cooperative strategy to boost our

economy.

The task force proposal also concentrates on five other major areas, including:

- improved education programs to increase the skills and productivity of American workers;
- programs to speed up research, development, and commercialization of new products and processes for our industries;
- programs to help workers and industries to adapt to technological changes, including retraining programs;
- stepped up investment in new plant and equipment; and
- trade programs to spur the sale of U.S. products and services overseas.

The challenge of increasingly stiff competition from our world trading partners and the corresponding decline in our own competitiveness make it essential for Americans to take bold and innovative steps.

The proposals of the task force I appointed -- to buttress our economic foundations, increase our industrial might, rival our foreign competitors, and provide more good jobs for American workers -- would give us the launching pad we need to propel us into a better economic future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investments In West Virginia's Future

Recently, I took part in dedications or ground-breakings for several new water treatment projects in West Virginia, including facilities in Fairmont, Wheeling, Shady Spring, and Romney.

At each of the ceremonies, I was impressed by the improved quality of life that West Virginians in those communities will enjoy, and by the opportunities that the upgraded systems will offer.

Many of my efforts over the years have been aimed at improving West Virginia's basic services -- not just its water and sewerage systems, but also its transportation network, public facilities, and other community services.

Investments in such projects can mean more business and industry for West Virginia, a boost in our state's economy, and a better living environment in our Mountain State.

Improved transportation -- better roads and bridges, safer airports, an expanded rail system, and an updated water transit network -- can open a community to new ventures by enabling products to be sent to market quickly and efficiently.

Public facilities -- such as improved schools, community buildings, and hospitals -- enhance the

quality of community life and provide the kind of atmosphere in which businesses seek to locate.

And the presence of good community services -- like the modern water and sewerage systems I recently helped to dedicate in West Virginia -- help provide more economic opportunities for West Virginians.

Since my first year in the U.S. Senate -- 1958 -- the federal government has funneled almost \$900 million into West Virginia for sewer and water projects alone -- projects that have meant better health conditions and a broader economic base in dozens of towns across our state.

But despite these improvements in basic water and sewerage facilities, too many West Virginians still do not have access to the modern systems that most Americans take for granted.

That is why continuing to bring modern facilities into West Virginia is so important, and why my efforts toward that end will continue.

West Virginia's future can be made brighter if we continue to invest in the public facilities and projects that will attract jobs, industries, and new possibilities for West Virginians, both for today and in the years to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Terrorism: A Looming Threat

Acts of terrorism used to be confined, for the most part, to places far from home, committed by groups with cryptic names and passionate causes.

Italy's Red Brigades, the Baader-Meinhof Gang of West Germany, the IRA, and extremist factions in the Middle East and elsewhere are familiar instigators of brutal bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, and other violent activities in Europe and the Mideast.

Increasingly, however, terrorism is striking closer to home.

Just recently, we have seen:

-- two explosions at a Navy Recruiting Center on Long Island, New York;

-- an attempted bombing at a defense contracting company in New York City;

-- the arrest of a man, his body wired with explosives, in the Visitors Gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives;

-- and a powerful explosion in the U.S. Capitol building, which caused an estimated \$250,000 in damage.

Though the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that terrorist acts in our country were down

from 51 in 1982 to 31 in 1983, mounting concern over an outbreak of terrorism in America has prompted increased security precautions in both the private and public sectors.

American businesses and industries, for instance, have stepped up security measures at operations here and abroad.

And in Washington, large concrete barriers guard entrances to the White House and the Pentagon, and extra security measures have been taken at the U.S. Capitol to protect both the people who work there and its millions of yearly visitors.

I do not advocate turning the free society that we all cherish into one of fences, barriers, security checkpoints, and armed guards at every turn.

I do believe, however, that a heightened awareness of the dangers posed by terrorists, a redoubling of our intelligence and security efforts, and stiff penalties for convicted terrorists will send a clear signal to those who are bent on committing mindless and irrational acts of terrorism that we, as a country, will not tolerate such assaults on our freedom and our way of life.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting West Virginia Exports

Exports are important to West Virginia's economy, and could become an even greater part of the state's economy in the years to come, especially if we take forward-looking steps to promote our products in foreign countries.

Nearly one in every five products manufactured in the Mountain State found its way to a foreign market last year -- a statistic that puts West Virginia third in the nation in the percentage of manufactured goods sold overseas.

Of those exported products, a recent Commerce Department survey showed that chemical products and primary metals were at the top of the list, with 27.2 percent of all West Virginia chemical shipments going to export, followed by 21.1 percent of all primary metals shipments.

Coal is another important West Virginia export -- even though it was not included in the Commerce Department's list -- with West Virginia being America's leading coal exporting state.

While our success in the exporting arena is encouraging, we cannot take for granted that West Virginia's exports will continue to soar.

For that reason, I am working -- along with West Virginia Gov. Jay Rockefeller -- to set up an Export Promotion office in West Virginia.

That idea arose after I was successful last year in gaining Senate approval for a \$45,000 program to encourage the sale of more West Virginia lumber to overseas customers.

An office to promote all kinds of West Virginia exports could serve as a central clearinghouse for our businessmen interested in learning what foreign markets are available, how best to tap into those markets, and how to boost sales of their products overseas.

In a companion effort, Gov. Rockefeller and I are also working on an Export Opportunities Day for West Virginia businessmen, to be held in the state within the next several months.

That event would provide a good chance for our businessmen to talk with federal export officials about the potential that the exporting business offers.

West Virginia's businesses and our state's economy will gain from every effort we can make to line up more foreign customers for our Mountain State products.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Good Program For West Virginia

West Virginia recently received the largest federal grant ever awarded to a state to reclaim abandoned mine lands -- more than \$27 million.

That funding -- known as a federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) construction grant -- will mean good things for West Virginia.

It will mean money for work on 43 reclamation projects in 20 West Virginia counties; work that will be translated into jobs, and into safer and healthier living conditions in the Mountain State.

In fact, OSM estimates that every \$1 million spent on reclamation construction projects creates some 20 to 50 jobs -- jobs that should help ease the hardship faced by some of our unemployed West Virginians.

The construction grant will also help West Virginia continue to restore mine lands that were abandoned decades ago -- projects such as sealing abandoned mine shafts; correcting subsidence and mine drainage problems; controlling mine fires; and cleaning up refuse piles.

That will include seven projects in Logan County; six in Kanawha; five in Monongalia; three each in Marion, Harrison, and Fayette; and two each in

Mingo, McDowell, and Preston.

Eleven West Virginia counties -- Boone, Brooke, Grant, Lewis, Ohio, Raleigh, Randolph, Upshur, Wyoming, and Clay-Nicholas -- will see work on one project with the latest grant money.

The Abandoned Mine Land fund -- which is controlled by the federal OSM and administered by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources -- is made up of fees collected from coal operators on each ton of coal mined.

The most recent grant -- West Virginia's third construction grant -- brings to more than \$55 million the reclamation funds earmarked for our state.

Of that \$27 million set aside for West Virginia, \$18.4 million will be available immediately to the state, with the remaining \$8.7 million provided when additional funds are available.

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation program has accomplished good things in West Virginia, and, in my position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to do whatever I can to see that West Virginia receives the funding it needs to carry out an effective reclamation program.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Computers and Education

Turning on the television, listening to the radio, or opening a magazine or newspaper is currently difficult to do without being bombarded by advertisements for home computers.

Many of those advertisements are aimed at parents of school-age children, appealing to a child's educational development and raising fears that a child will be left behind unless he or she has a home computer.

Likewise, pressure for school systems to computerize -- as a way of improving the nation's education system -- has been growing.

Properly used, computers can and will be an excellent educational tool, both in our schools and at home.

Before launching into an all-out buying spree on computer hardware and software, parents and schools should examine what computers offer and what they will be used for.

A recent report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching looked at the computer phenomenon in education and offered several common-sense suggestions for making full and effective use of our computer technology.

Among other things, the report suggests:

-- a careful review of the needs of a school and its student body, as well as a particular computer's capabilities to meet those needs;

-- an in-depth study of not only the quality of computer hardware equipment, but also the level and caliber of the instructional material offered with each system;

-- a thorough training program -- and frequently updated training -- to make certain that teachers can instruct students on the most effective ways of using computers;

-- and establishment of a central clearinghouse on computer technology, which could be valuable in evaluating the different technologies available to schools and educators.

Computers can enrich our educational system -- and other areas of our lives -- if we make it a priority to master the full range of possibilities that computers offer and tailor those possibilities to our own needs.

Computer ability in our educational system should not be a substitute for our students' learning basic skills -- in areas such as mathematics, grammar, language, and the sciences -- but should enhance those skills.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Ally on Acid Rain

During his State of the Union message, President Reagan stated a sensible approach to the acid rain issue.

In his address, the President called for more intensive scientific research into acid rain; a program, in the meantime, to help states reduce the effects of high acidity on lakes; and, finally, speeded-up efforts to find ways to burn coal cleanly.

I applaud the President for his stand, which endorses the three-pronged effort I have undertaken on acid rain.

At the heart of my position on acid rain is one simple premise: We cannot make any rational decisions on acid rain until we have scientific agreement on what it is, what causes it, what its effects are, and what, if anything, can be done about it.

Scientific opinion on acid rain is, and has been, greatly divided.

Just last year, for instance, a U.S. Geological Survey study showed that acidity levels in the Northeast are stabilizing, and that concentrations of sulphur-based chemicals in streams and lakes are actually declining.

Scientists have also found that, of the hundreds of lakes in the Northeast, only a small percentage show signs of high acidity. And other studies detect the presence of acidity far into the Arctic Circle, dating from centuries ago.

These findings suggest not only that coal may not be the major culprit in the acid rain phenomenon, but they also point to the need for more scientific data

before a final decision on acid rain is made.

Any decision to enact strict regulations to "control" acid rain could be particularly destructive to West Virginia, both in the loss of thousands of coal and related jobs, and in the blow to the state's economic base.

Moreover, there would be higher costs for coal, and increased utility bills -- both industrial and residential.

That is why I have called for the faster completion of a federal task force study on acid rain. That report is due in 1992; my bill calls for its completion five years earlier -- in 1987.

Recognizing that high acidity levels have turned up in a minority of lakes in the Northeast, my bill would also provide grants to states to allow them to take steps -- such as lime applications -- to reduce or eliminate the effects of that acidity.

A final, and crucial, element of my acid rain approach is my bill to speed up development of technologies that would allow us to burn all West Virginia coal -- both high and low sulphur -- in a more environmentally sound way.

The acid rain issue is complex, multi-faceted, and fraught with uncertainty.

Before we consider imprudent, costly, and possibly ineffective measures to try to deal with acid rain, we must be certain that we have a good understanding of its causes and effects.

I am glad that President Reagan and I are in agreement on this crucial acid rain issue.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Shot In The Arm For Small Businessmen

The West Virginia small businessman comprises a significant part of the state's economy.

From shopkeepers in Bluefield to restaurateurs in the Northern Panhandle, our small businessmen play an integral role in making West Virginia's economy work.

Efforts to help our small businessmen thrive deserve priority attention, which is why I recently co-sponsored a Senate bill that would aid small businesses in competing for federal contracts.

That bill -- which is known as the Small Business Competition in Contracting Act -- contains a number of provisions that would be beneficial to West Virginians and to the nation's economy in general.

The goal of the bill is to increase small business participation in the federal procurement process by tightening up federal regulations that have been used to deny contracts to small businesses.

That tightening of federal procurement regulations should open the way for more small businesses to sell products and services to the federal government.

The bill also contains a section that requires a prime contractor to make an effort to find subcontractors in areas hardest hit by

unemployment -- so-called "labor surplus" areas. Most of West Virginia qualifies under that category.

Finally, the bill would have the important side effect of improving competition for Pentagon contracts, which would save the taxpayers' money by promoting greater efficiency in the purchasing of spare parts.

The Pentagon's spare parts buying procedures have been controversial, and have come under fire for the large sums of money that have been spent for relatively inexpensive items. Recent reports, for instance, suggest that the Pentagon has spent hundreds of dollars for a simple tool -- a wrench or a hammer -- that should cost less than \$10.

The Small Business Competition in Contracting Act is the kind of bill that could curb that type of wasteful spending, and that could be a big step toward directing more contracts to many small, excellent companies.

West Virginia's small businessmen would certainly benefit from that kind of effort, and from similar attempts to utilize the talents and potential of our small businessmen to their fullest.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Insurance For West Virginia's Future

West Virginia has a network of river locks and dams crucial to much of the state's commerce.

The deteriorating condition of that navigational system, however, threatens West Virginia's economic growth, and makes it essential that repairs get underway quickly to ensure that the system is efficient and effective in the years to come.

I have been urging the Senate Environment Committee to move forward on legislation that would make needed improvements to outmoded lock and dam facilities -- Gallipolis, on the Ohio River near Pt. Pleasant, and Locks and Dams 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River near Morgantown.

In testimony submitted to that Committee recently, I re-emphasized my interest and concern in seeing meaningful repair work begin soon on these crucial facilities.

Without question, Gallipolis is vital to West Virginia's economic well-being. Currently, 27 percent of the commerce that moves through the outdated Gallipolis locks originates in West Virginia, including coal, glass, steel, chemicals, lumber, and other products.

Of the tonnage that Gallipolis handles each year, 14 percent moves from West Virginia to other states, while 27 percent is received by West Virginia.

The Gallipolis facilities are especially important to West Virginia's coal industry. By 1990,

according to the Army Corps of Engineers, 65 percent of all traffic handled at Gallipolis will be carrying coal.

For every year's delay in making improvements at Gallipolis, West Virginia loses more than \$100 million in benefits. The long-term loss to West Virginia -- absent the necessary repairs -- would be staggering.

Locks and Dams 7 and 8 present the same kind of problems for West Virginia. Army Corps officials say that without renovation of the two facilities, a complete shutdown of commerce along the Monongahela River could occur -- a fact that could disable West Virginia's ability to transport products by river to Pittsburgh and points beyond.

In addition to urging the Senate Environment Committee to act on legislation that would allow construction work to begin on these critical inland waterway facilities, I have also requested the head of the Army Corps of Engineers -- the federal agency responsible for the condition of our locks and dams -- to assign these repair projects his top priority.

Unless we move quickly to update and improve our inland waterway system, we risk expensive delays and additional consumer costs that will damage West Virginia's economy in the years to come.

That is a risk that must not be taken.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding West Virginia's Export Horizons

The timber-rich areas of eastern West Virginia should get a boost from a lumber export promotion program that recently received the go-ahead from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

That program -- which is designed to spur the sale of West Virginia's fine lumber products to overseas buyers -- got its start in an amendment for which I was able to gain Senate approval last year.

My amendment earmarked \$45,000 in an appropriations bill to set up the West Virginia timber export program, which will be administered by the West Virginia Office of Economic and Community Development.

West Virginia's businessmen are not strangers to the exporting arena. Already, West Virginia has achieved an impressive ranking in the percentage of manufactured goods exported each year -- third in the nation.

The large number of West Virginia goods that find their way to foreign markets is good for our state's economy, which is why attempts to maintain or improve that ranking are so important.

Those efforts are particularly meaningful in light of the runaway trade deficits this country is suffering -- deficits that could top \$100 billion this year.

Trade deficits -- which are a sign of the erosion of the competitiveness of American products in overseas markets -- can only hurt an exporting state like West Virginia.

Under that scenario, then, programs to keep up our exports -- not only lumber, but also all West Virginia products -- take on special importance.

For that reason, my attempts to expand West Virginia's export horizons will continue, with my efforts focused on gaining new foreign markets for West Virginia products.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing Coal For The Future

West Virginia is rich in coal reserves -- both in their quality and their quantity.

Our high- and low-sulphur coals are known to be among the finest in the world, and, without question, West Virginia has enough coal to supply our energy needs for many years into the future.

To do that, however, a priority emphasis is needed on developing new ways to use our coal more efficiently and effectively -- to burn our coal in a more environmentally sound way.

That is the goal of my coal research and development bill, which I introduced in the Senate last fall.

To be successful, that bill -- which sets up a five-year, accelerated research program to develop advanced coal-burning technologies -- must gain widespread support.

Events of recent weeks offer encouragement that my coal research bill is capturing the kind of backing it will need in order to become a successful effort.

In a recent meeting in my office, for instance, Energy Secretary Donald Hodel lent his support for

my proposal, agreeing with me that we must find ways -- as quickly as possible -- to burn all kinds of coal in a clean, efficient manner.

Secretary Hodel's support is welcome, especially since this Administration has achieved only a mixed record as far as coal programs are concerned.

My bill got another boost when the federal government's top coal official, Mr. William Vaughan, lent his support to my call for more intensified coal research.

Mr. Vaughan, the new Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, indicated during a meeting in my office that he supports enactment of my coal research bill.

Also, hearings have been scheduled on my bill for April 9 by the Senate Energy Subcommittee on Energy, Research, and Development.

We cannot wait to begin an all-out, concentrated effort to find new technologies that will lead to a greater reliance on one of our most abundant natural resources -- coal.

That effort will be crucial to West Virginia and to the entire country.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting The World Steel Competition

The American steel industry is suffering, and that hardship calls for actions to help the industry survive and meet the challenge of an increasingly competitive world steel market.

Foreign steelmakers -- with the unfair competitive advantage of subsidies by their own governments -- have eaten into the American steel market, taking over 21 percent of the domestic supply.

Nearly half of the U.S. steelworkers who had jobs five years ago have been left unemployed by the decline of the American steel industry.

And in our own state of West Virginia, thousands of steelworkers have lost their jobs. In fact, one of five workers in West Virginia's metals industry is jobless, with total industrial employment near its lowest level since record-keeping began in 1939.

Recently, I joined in introducing a bill in the U.S. Senate that offers a solid, legislative remedy for some of our steel industry

troubles.

That bill -- authored by Sen. John Heinz, Republican of Pennsylvania -- would establish import quotas, for each steel product, of approximately 15 percent of the domestic supply. Those quotas would be in effect for a five-year period.

The bill also contains a requirement that steel companies must invest substantial capital in modernization of their plants and equipment -- a move to boost the competitiveness and productivity of our steel industry.

Our aim is to bring the U.S. steel industry into a new era of competition -- to help our steel industry modernize its approach to steel-making so it can compete on a fair and equal footing with foreign steelmakers.

West Virginia and the nation need a healthy steel industry -- for the jobs it provides, for the boost it gives to our economy, and for its contributions to our national security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Widening The Fight Against Cancer

The comprehensive cancer center is on the drawing board for West Virginia, and if that effort is successful, West Virginians will have a much-needed, state-of-the-art facility geared toward the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and research of various forms of cancer.

The West Virginia Cancer Center -- proposed by officials from West Virginia University -- would be headquartered in Morgantown, with satellite or outreach that is sensitive to the needs of cancer patients in our state, and for the study, research, and treatment of the kinds of cancer problems most often found in West Virginia.

The National Cancer Institute estimated that in 1983, nearly one-third of those West Virginians with terminal cancer might have been saved had they had earlier cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Backers of the West Virginia Cancer Center have expressed a strong commitment to reaching those in isolated, rural areas of West Virginia to ensure that they receive proper and prompt cancer care -- a crucial part of any comprehensive cancer pro-

gram for our state.

WVU officials are seeking \$31 million for the new center, including \$16 million from the federal government and another \$15 million from private sources.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have already contacted the chairman of the Health Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Weicker, to seek his support for the necessary federal funding.

That funding would be spread over a four-year period: \$4.5 million in fiscal 1985; \$4.5 million in fiscal 1986; \$3.45 million in fiscal 1987; and \$3.64 million in fiscal 1988.

With federal budget deficits of historic magnitude, obtaining the federal money for a West Virginia cancer center will not be a simple or easy task.

West Virginia would gain from a cancer center treatment facility aimed specifically at solving West Virginia's cancer problems, however, and as a supporter of such a center I have pledged my efforts to working to help secure the federal funding needed to make the West Virginia Cancer Center a reality.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting The Full Picture

One of the U.S. Senate's important constitutional responsibilities is to look carefully at a President's choices for top executive branch jobs and to determine if those people nominated are qualified to hold the positions for which they were named.

In order to do an effective job in its confirmation duties, the Senate must have up-to-date, accurate, and complete information on a nominee. Without that information, the Senate runs the risk of confirming a person for a job for which he or she is not truly suited or qualified.

The Senate has been recently going through a confirmation proceeding -- that of Presidential Counsellor Edwin Meese to be the country's next Attorney General -- which has been unduly complicated because a complete picture of Mr. Meese's financial affairs was not immediately available to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

This is not the first time that the Senate has run into confirmation problems, and difficulties have arisen in both Democratic and Republican Administrations.

Ray Donovan, who was confirmed as Labor Secretary in 1981, was later the subject of an extensive investigation by a special prosecutor after it was learned that serious charges about his background had neither been investigated nor communicated to the Senate.

The Bert Lance case -- during

the Carter Administration -- is another example.

The recent difficulties with Mr. Meese's confirmation bring into clear focus, once again, the need for the Senate's confirmation process to be tightened and improved.

For that reason, I have introduced a bill in the Senate that would change some key elements of the confirmation process. That bill would:

- ensure that senators conducting confirmation hearings would have access to the same information that the White House has on a particular nominee;

- remove from White House jurisdiction the supervision of a nominee's confirmation background investigation, placing it, instead, in the independent Office of Government Ethics; and

- make reconfirmation necessary for cabinet and other key officials whom a re-elected President wishes to keep in place for a second term.

Simply, my bill would ensure that the Senate has all the facts needed to fairly and faithfully discharge its Constitutional responsibility of confirming top government officials.

Our government can only be as good as the people who run it, and those people should be chosen for important and responsible jobs only after their qualifications have been fully disclosed and carefully studied.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving A Vital Industry

Our country's ability to make and supply the vital raw and finished materials needed for military equipment is a key element in maintaining a strong national defense.

Too often in recent years, however, our basic industries have teetered on the edge of survival, jeopardizing our country's capacity to maintain its strength and independence.

For example, the nation's steel industry -- which has fallen on difficult times as production levels have slumped in recent years and foreign imports have soared -- is key to our defense efforts. If the U.S. were forced to rely on another country for its steel needs, our entire defense effort could be endangered.

The same is true of a smaller, but equally vital industry: ferroalloys.

Ferroalloys are tough metals used in a variety of military equipment, such as tanks, ships, weapons, and other defense materiel.

Unfortunately, unfairly priced foreign ferroalloys are chewing into the domestic industry's ability to survive and compete, prompting America's ferroalloy industry to seek relief from the federal government.

West Virginia has three ferroalloy companies that have all felt the effects of foreign ferroalloys -- Elkem Metals at Alloy; Chemetals at Kingwood; and Foote Minerals Company at Graham Station.

Representatives from those companies and I recently met together with Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige in my Capitol office to discuss the difficulties they have been experiencing in keeping their companies alive.

Not only are our producers concerned about the job losses -- nearly 1,150 in West Virginia in the last few years -- and production drops that have resulted from the invasion of foreign ferroalloys, but we also told Secretary Baldrige about the national security problems that would arise from the lack of a healthy, domestic ferroalloy industry.

Secretary Baldrige promised us that he would urge President Reagan to make a swift decision on a petition that has been before him since August, 1982, that could help domestic ferroalloy producers fight underpriced imports.

Further, a number of my Congressional colleagues and I have been urging the Administration for many months to grant relief to the ferroalloy industry -- as a matter of national security, and to help an important U.S. industry that is suffering at the hands of unfair trade practices by foreign countries.

The West Virginians representing the ferroalloy industry made a compelling case to Secretary Baldrige, and I hope the Administration will reward those efforts with action designed to support our ferroalloy industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preparing Our Students For Tomorrow

West Virginia, in the past year, has undertaken an ambitious and well-planned effort to develop a co-ordinated computer education network for our state's schools.

By the end of the year, high school seniors in all of our state's 71 vocational schools and in a dozen West Virginia high schools will have access to computer education.

Despite this encouraging progress, however, West Virginia will need additional financial resources before its outstanding computer education program can reach all West Virginia schools and students in all grades.

West Virginia has made the initial investment in computer education -- as difficult as that has been at a time when financial resources are stretched thin -- because our state educators understand the importance of giving our students the educational opportunities and skills necessary to meet the challenges that will face them in this decade and beyond.

West Virginia's commitment to computer education and its need for future financial help were two reasons why I recently joined in introducing a bill in the U.S. Senate that would provide students with computer educational opportunities.

That bill -- the Computer Education Assistance Act of 1984 -- is aimed at giving all students access to basic computer skills, and, as such, is heavily weighted toward channeling

federal assistance to schools and students with fewer financial resources.

The computer bill has four basic and important elements:

-- it places a heavy emphasis on planning by schools to make certain they obtain the most appropriate and useful computer equipment. West Virginia's planning efforts were used as a model in the bill in the belief that all states should approach computer education planning as thoroughly and thoughtfully as has West Virginia;

-- it addresses the problem of the shortage of adequate computer training for teachers by setting up a grant program to develop and operate teacher training institutes;

-- it calls for the development of solid computer software for students in elementary and secondary schools in recognition of the shortage of worthwhile computer instructional programs; and

-- as already noted, it targets federal assistance to schools and students who most need it.

Basic computer knowledge -- to enhance and expand the traditional reading, writing, grammar, mathematics, science, and other skills that are so important to our students' educations -- will be a key for our young people to compete in the years ahead.

The computer education bill introduced recently is designed to make sure that not only do our students have access to computer education programs, but also that those programs are beneficial, effective, and worthwhile.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting Our High Technology

The United States enjoys a significant and important edge over the Soviet Union in the production and manufacture of high-technology equipment.

That edge is so important, in fact, that the Soviets have developed some underhanded techniques to try to get their hands on our advanced technology.

During a recent congressional hearing, for instance, witnesses told senators that U.S. Customs agents had successfully thwarted an attempt to illegally sell a sophisticated computer to the Soviets by shipping it through a third country.

Unfortunately, the flow of technologically sensitive equipment from the United States to the Soviet Union has become so severe that a recent report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies stated that the U.S. risks losing its technological advantage unless this situation is brought under control.

While I am not inclined to agree that we have totally given up our technological edge, I do think the United States and its allies must take swift action to safeguard and preserve the advanced knowledge that makes our products so valuable to the Soviet Union and other would-be aggressors.

Nowhere is that more important than in our defense technology, an area in which the competitive edge we enjoy is a key element to our national security efforts.

That was what I had in mind recently when I offered an amendment in the Senate -- which was adopted -- that would help stem the flow of defense-sensitive technology to the Soviet Union and other foreign rivals.

Specifically, this amendment -- to the Export Administration Act -- calls for review and comment by the Defense Department and other national security agencies on export regulations dealing with military technology.

That close scrutiny is aimed at preventing the inadvertent or unlawful transfer of militarily sensitive, "high-tech" equipment to unfriendly countries.

Our world today demands that we maintain a strong national defense, and one of the vital elements of that defense effort is the advantage we currently hold in the high-technology field.

We must make every effort to protect our technical superiority, and in so doing maintain the military strength that means peace and freedom for our children and our grandchildren.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Competing For Research Dollars

"Scientific research" sometimes brings to mind white-coated scientists bending over microscopes peering at tiny organisms, or working out long, cryptic formulae that nobody else can understand.

In fact, though, the scientific research that seems so mysterious to many of us -- and so foreign to our daily lives -- is very basic to the everyday things we do. Each day, scientists battle diseases to make our lives healthier, and create new products and technologies that help lay the groundwork for whole new industries.

Many established companies involved in research and high-technology, for instance, locate new plants near important research centers, or where there is an ample supply of trained research people.

No wonder, then, that West Virginians -- especially at our universities and colleges -- are showing stronger interest in getting more involved in scientific research.

Such research takes money, and one of the main sources for our limited scientific research dollars is the federal government.

Recently, representatives from three federal agencies involved in scientific funding -- the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of Energy and Defense -- accompanied me to Morgantown to take part in a sem-

inar that I arranged for research personnel from West Virginia's colleges and universities.

My purpose in setting up that seminar -- which was co-hosted by West Virginia University, with the excellent cooperation of WVU's president, Dr. Gordon Gee -- was twofold: to help bring more federal research dollars into West Virginia, and to acquaint federal officials with the research potential of West Virginia's universities and colleges.

Competition for federal research dollars is keen, and in gearing up our efforts to obtain more federal grant funding in West Virginia, we will be going head-to-head with scientists and institutions of higher learning in other states.

Traditionally, West Virginia has not fared as well as it could in attracting research dollars, in great measure because science and scientific research have not been given the priority they deserve in our schools and colleges.

I hope the seminar will help give our research officials a leg-up on applying and competing for federal research funds.

By increasing West Virginia's share of federal research funding, we will be opening new opportunities for West Virginians to take advantage of the worldwide technological and scientific revolution that is making a positive difference in all of our lives.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Promise For The Future

The acid rain debate has brought a sense of urgency to the need for coal research and development.

That was the message that I took to the Senate Energy Research and Development Subcommittee recently when I testified in support of a bill that I have introduced in the Senate to put our country on a fast-track coal research and development program.

The Committee's decision to hold a day of hearings on my bill -- which I introduced last October -- gave my legislation an important boost that I hope will bring serious Senate consideration of my idea in the near future.

The debate over acid rain, and the suggestion by some that strict controls on sulphur dioxide emissions will result in a lessening of acid precipitation, have made finding new ways to burn and use our coal more cleanly and efficiently a top priority.

The terms of the acid rain debate represent a challenge to the use of all coal -- regardless of whether that coal has a high- or low-sulphur content or whether it is mined in Wyoming or in West Virginia.

In short, no coal is totally free of nitrogen or sulphur -- the substances suspected of contributing to

acid precipitation -- and the eventual goal of some of those seeking strict acid rain controls is to stop all coal-burning.

Obviously, for a state like West Virginia that goal would be devastating. And, looking at the broader picture, the loss of the use of our country's coal reserves would be a crippling blow to our economy and to our long-term energy independence.

The acid rain debate comes at a time when the Administration has made deep cuts in coal research and development programs. The unwise undercutting of our coal programs must be stopped, which was one of the driving forces in my introduction of coal research and development legislation.

My bill calls for the federal government to reassess its coal policy and to join together with private companies and our colleges and universities in a five-year, concentrated effort to find new ways for our industries and power plants to use coal in an environmentally sound way.

That kind of federal commitment is needed if we are to realize coal's full potential and take advantage of its promise for our country's future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Trade Crisis

Recent figures released by the Commerce Department show that America is facing the largest trade deficit in the nation's history -- a record \$29.9 billion for the first three months of 1984 and a record \$10.26 billion in March alone.

In business terms, a trade deficit means that the United States is importing more merchandise than it is exporting. But in human terms, a trade deficit means lost jobs and lost opportunities.

The Commerce Department reports that every \$1 billion decline in exports costs this country 25,000 jobs lost or not created. The March trade deficit, for example, translates into more than 250,000 Americans who have lost jobs or opportunities for work. That is more than a quarter of a million men and women who do not know if they can make the house payment, feed their families, or otherwise make ends meet.

The trade deficit is particularly troubling to strong exporting states like West Virginia. Our state ranks third in the nation in the percent of its manufactured goods going to export, and our work force depends heavily on a strong export policy.

For this reason, I have been working with my colleagues in the Senate to find solutions to the economic problems -- including high interest rates, a dangerously overvalued dollar, and the related fed-

eral deficit -- that have contributed to the trade deficit. I am convinced that we cannot solve our trade problems until we bring economic policies in line with reality.

Beyond overall improvements in economic policy, targeted remedies -- such as the Fair Trade in Steel bill -- are needed to improve our foreign trade posture.

The steel industry provides a sobering illustration of what can happen when imports flood the market. In the first three months of this year, more than six million tons of foreign steel entered the U.S. market, giving foreign companies control of almost a quarter of this country's steel market. Nearly half the American steelworkers who were on the job five years ago have lost their jobs, including 9,000 West Virginians.

The Fair Trade in Steel bill, which I joined in introducing, would help reverse this trend by limiting steel imports and by returning fair competition to the domestic and international steel markets.

American workers and American businesses deserve more from the government than well-wishing in the struggle to compete in the international market. They deserve strong trade initiatives that are responsive to their problems and that will strengthen the American economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Re-energizing A Vital Program

America's synthetic fuels program, as envisioned by its creators in 1980, was a far-sighted effort to meet our domestic energy needs, enhance our national security, and bolster the economy of coal-rich states like West Virginia.

While the mission of the Synthetic Fuels Corporation (SFC) remains as valid today as when it was created, the leadership of the agency has been beset by so much ineptitude and questionable ethics that the very existence of the Synthetic Fuels Corporation is in jeopardy.

As it stands now, the SFC board of directors cannot act because it does not have enough members left to constitute a quorum. At the same time, the Administration is moving to cripple the agency by slashing its budget.

It is unfortunate that such a heavy-handed approach is being taken when a far wiser solution would be to clean house, appoint a new chairman of the board of directors and new board members, and get the nation's synthetic fuels program back on track.

Despite the short-term world oil situation, establishing a domestic

synthetic fuels industry is still a key to our long-term security. The increasing instability in the Persian Gulf, and its implications for world wide oil prices and supplies, should serve as a strong incentive to step up our domestic synthetic fuels industry.

The SFC -- with the energy resources of states like West Virginia -- could play a leading role in achieving our energy independence. Instead, we are losing valuable time while the Administration allows the SFC to flounder without leadership and without a quorum.

One thing is certain: we should not allow an agency so important to our nation, and to our state, to be shuffled into obscurity. I have called for the President to nominate a new chairman to return the SFC to its original course, and I will continue to speak out on fulfilling the mission of the agency.

What we do today with the Synthetic Fuels Corporation may well determine how we will meet our nation's energy needs in the future -- or even if we will be able to meet those needs.

May 23, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Let The Soviets Stay Home

The Soviet Union announced recently that it would not send its athletes to compete in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, a decision it claimed was based on the United States' failure to take adequate security precautions to protect the Soviet competitors.

In the aftermath of that announcement, some suggested that the United States should go to any length to guarantee the Soviets that their athletes would be safe in Los Angeles, and that we should "negotiate" with the Soviets to persuade them to change their minds.

I disagree.

Contrary to what the official line might be from the Kremlin, I believe the Soviets had no intention of showing up at the Olympics, but decided months ago to "pay back" the United States for its boycott of Moscow's 1980 Summer Games.

I also believe the Soviets feared that sending their athletes to Los Angeles would result in defections, with some of their young people opting to live in a country that values freedom and personal liberties.

I supported the 1980 Moscow Olympic boycott, called by President Carter in response to the Soviet Union's brutal and un-

provoked attack on Afghanistan, as an appropriate and justifiable response to an intolerable act.

The reasons for that boycott still exist -- the Soviets, even to this day, occupy Afghanistan, subjecting innocent people to acts of terror and brutality.

We should not forget the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, or its ruthless destruction of an unarmed, Korean passenger airliner last summer.

I regret that the Olympic athletes will be penalized for the Soviets' decision to boycott the Summer Games. Years of training and hard work go into an Olympic career, and I am sorry that many of the world's athletes will either not be able to participate, or will be competing against a diminished field of competitors.

That does not mean, however, that our country should beg the Soviets -- or the Soviet allies who also have walked out of the Games -- to join the rest of the world's athletes in Los Angeles this summer.

The Soviets, using a flimsy excuse, have elected to skip the 1984 Summer Olympics. I think the Soviets interpret it as a sign of weakness for us to beg them to come. Let them stay away.

May 30, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Fitting Memorial

The Grafton National Veterans Cemetery in Taylor County has been closed to burials for more than twenty years for lack of space, a situation that has moved West Virginia's veterans to join together in an effort to provide another national veterans cemetery in our state.

The years of hard work on that project by West Virginia's veterans and by officials in the federal and state governments were rewarded recently when the head of the Veterans Administration promised that his agency would "move as quickly as possible" to provide new national veterans burial space in West Virginia.

West Virginia veterans received that promise from VA Chief Harry Walters during a meeting in my Capitol office, which was also attended by U.S. Sen. Jennings Randolph and Rep. Alan Mollohan of West Virginia's First Congressional District, in which the cemetery is located.

Walters pledged during the meeting that the \$1.75 million in the fiscal 1984 budget, that I was successful in designating for the expansion of national veterans cemetery space in West Virginia,

would not be diverted to any other project, but would, in fact, be used in West Virginia.

The VA Administrator also made clear during our meeting that for the VA to go forward with the West Virginia project, land suitable for burial purposes must be donated to the VA.

Walters told the West Virginia veterans that the VA would study a plot of state-owned land near Pruntytown -- only a few miles from the existing Grafton Cemetery -- to determine its suitability for cemetery use. West Virginia Gov. Jay Rockefeller has already offered to donate that land for a veterans cemetery.

The VA's recent pledge to work together with West Virginia's veterans and with members of the Congressional delegation to achieve the goal of a new veterans cemetery for West Virginia will allow us to continue our efforts on both the state and federal levels to make the new site a reality.

A new national veterans cemetery for West Virginia will be an appropriate and fitting memorial to the sacrifices West Virginia's veterans have made for their country.

June 6, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Boosting West Virginia Exports

West Virginia is not often thought of as an exporting state.

Our state is better-known, perhaps, for its rich coal reserves, chemical and glass manufacturers, lumber industry, steel mills of the Northern Panhandle, fruit growing in the Eastern Panhandle, and other industries.

But, in fact, West Virginia is a leader in exports -- in 1981, according to the U.S. Commerce Department, the third-highest ranking state in the percentage of manufactured goods sold to overseas buyers.

Those exports included more than \$1 billion-worth of West Virginia chemicals; \$600 million in primary metals; \$82 million in fabricated metals; and \$78 million in machinery products.

And that ranking does not take into account West Virginia's coal exports. In 1982, West Virginia sold 45 million tons of its coal to overseas buyers, which accounted for nearly 43 percent of all U.S. coal sold abroad.

In an effort to maintain and build upon the success that West Virginia companies have had in exporting, I recently sponsored an export seminar to give the West Virginia business community a chance to talk with federal Commerce Department officials about the possibilities open to them in foreign markets.

For first-time exporters, the seminar -- which was held in Charleston -- offered guidance on

selling West Virginia products overseas.

For those who are already in the export market, the seminar provided tips on ways to expand foreign trade.

I was proud that during the seminar, the announcement was made that a West Virginia firm, Standard Instrumentation, Inc. of Charleston, has won the Commerce Department's Excellence in Exporting Award -- the first West Virginia company to receive the citation since Huntington's International Nickel Company won it in 1974.

Following the seminar, West Virginia companies interested in exporting got another boost when the Commerce Department announced that it has designated an Export Trading Company in West Virginia, one of fewer than 50 in the country.

That company -- H.L. Porter and Associates of Wayne County -- will be in a position to help West Virginia firms find foreign markets for their goods, especially lumber products; mine machinery and spare parts; coal; chemicals; and arts and crafts.

World markets offer great potential for West Virginia businesses and for our state's economy, and I am encouraged by the positive signs in West Virginia that our exports will not only continue, but that they will also increase in the years ahead.

June 13, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: New Role in Easing Trade Tensions

Trade relations between Japan and the United States are approaching a crossroads as the U.S. trade deficit with Japan continues to climb.

Last year, the United States' trade deficit with Japan exceeded \$20 billion. This is the largest trade deficit between any two nations in history, and it continues to grow. In April, our deficit was a record \$3.03 billion. Clearly, we cannot sustain that kind of imbalance indefinitely. There are, however, solutions to this imbalance, and West Virginia coal can play a major role in reaching those solutions.

Recently, I met with American and Japanese leaders of the Japan-U.S. Coal Mission to discuss coal trade issues.

Coal is a crucial element in Japan-U.S. trade considerations, but the current outlook for coal exports to Japan seems to be very slim. For many years, the United States provided at least one-third of Japan's metallurgical coal requirements, but from 1982 to 1983, Japanese imports of U.S. coal dropped almost 40 percent. The National Coal Association further estimates that U.S. metallurgical coal exports to Japan are expected to decline about 25 percent in 1990 from 1982 levels.

This state of affairs is clearly disappointing, particularly to a state like West Virginia, which accounts for almost 50 percent of this nation's coal exports.

Although some forecasters say the longer-term prospects in the next decade are better, the gloomy prospect for the period between now and the end of the decade is of concern to me and to many of my colleagues in the U.S. Senate.

Indeed, legislation imposing steel quotas and domestic content legislation have been introduced in this Congress. These bills have growing support as a result of the tensions between Japan and the United States on trade issues.

Therefore, I sincerely hope the efforts of the Japan-U.S. Coal Mission will result in new agreements and arrangements that will help dispel the gathering storm clouds. In particular, I would like to see sales of U.S. coal to Japan maintained and increased at least to historical levels, and I would like to encourage the prospect of providing high quality West Virginia steam coal to Japan.

The success of the efforts of the Japan-U.S. Coal Mission could go a long way toward relieving some of the frustration felt by all Americans with respect to our uneven trade relations with Japan.

June 20, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Oil Supplies: Preparing for the Worst

The crisis in the Persian Gulf, precipitated by the war between Iran and Iraq, is deepening with every passing day.

Although this war is being fought halfway across the globe, the threat it poses to the flow of worldwide oil could bring it home to all of us.

While the United States has reduced its dependence on Persian Gulf oil, other nations have not. A severe cutback or cutoff of oil from the region would bring fierce competition for non-Arab oil and skyrocketing prices in the world market.

As the situation in the Persian Gulf deteriorates, I am becoming more and more concerned that the United States is not prepared to cope with a full-scale energy emergency. I fear that this Administration's approach to emergency energy preparedness is far too limited to deal adequately and fairly with the problems our nation will face in the event of a major oil disruption.

The United States has a stockpile of oil, called the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to see us and our allies through an oil shortage. But this Administration has no plan for allocation of this oil, and apparently no intention of develop-

ing a plan.

Instead of allocating oil, the Administration plans to sell it to the highest bidder. But saying that whoever can pay the price of the oil will get the oil does not, in my opinion, constitute a "plan." It does not tell me how we will get oil to our hospitals in West Virginia, to our farmers, our truck drivers, our elderly people or anybody else who needs oil but can't afford to outbid the competition.

The Department of Energy has estimated that a major disruption of Arab oil supplies could cause the price of oil to rise to between \$40 and \$80 a barrel -- an increase over current prices of at least 40 percent and as much as 200 percent.

Price increases of that magnitude would be disastrous to the people of West Virginia. Working people and the elderly would be particularly hard hit by another oil price shock.

To allow that to happen is not laissez-faire government but less-than-fair. The United States would not escape unscathed from an oil disruption in the Persian Gulf. It is time this Administration recognized that fact and began planning for the worst -- before the problem arises, not after it is too late.

June 27, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Curbing the Cost of "Spare Parts"

In recent months, we have been treated to repeated horror stories of outrageous prices the Department of Defense has paid for common tools and spare parts.

For example, the Pentagon paid \$450 each for ordinary hammers; \$427 each for tape measures; \$17.59 for a bolt worth 67 cents; and an incredible \$1,118.26 for a simple plastic cap for a folding stool that should have cost about a dollar.

The prices paid for these and other commonplace, off-the-shelf items have been so outrageous that they insult the common sense of all of us.

I wonder what the average carpenter in this country would tell the hardware salesman if he asked \$450 for a hammer? I can imagine how a West Virginia coal miner or steelworker would react if he were told that the cost of a regular sledgehammer was up to \$436 -- the price paid by the Navy for such an item.

I don't think the average citizen would accept such ridiculously high prices, and the military should not continue to do so. The

Senate recently voted overwhelmingly to pass an amendment I sponsored that will put real teeth into a new position being created for each branch of the service -- the job of "competition advocate."

The competition advocate's major responsibility will be to ensure that the military is getting the best possible price on the parts and tools it buys.

My amendment is designed to make sure that the military listens to the competition advocates by requiring that the advocates have the status of senior officers, that they hold their jobs for at least two years, and that any purchases made contrary to their advice are reported to Congress.

As it stands now, the military procurement process is just short of being a nightmare. My intention is to shake up the system, jolt the ingrained habits of procurement officials, and enforce fresh and constant reviews of the adequacy of competition within the procurement process to protect against such obscene wastes of the taxpayer's money.

July 4, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working For Unity

Unity in the coal industry is essential to meet the challenge of proposed acid rain controls.

The future of the coal industry is especially important to West Virginia, which is the second largest coal-producing state in the nation. Anything that affects the industry will be felt in West Virginia's economy. The downturn in the demand for coal over the past few years, for example, is reflected in West Virginia's high unemployment and the loss of 15,000 coal industry jobs in our state between 1980 and 1984.

Today, one of the greatest threats to the coal industry is the cry for instant acid rain controls. While it is important that the acid rain issue be dealt with, it is crucial that the problem be dealt with prudently.

Premature action could have a devastating effect on the coal industry, and on the economy of states like West Virginia. It could cost thousands of jobs, result in higher electric bills for consumers, and turn some of our most productive coal communities into ghost towns.

Unfortunately, some proponents of acid rain controls have a hidden agenda. Their intention is to use the acid rain issue to clamp a lid on all coal combustion.

That is why it is so important for the coal industry to present a united front in confronting the acid rain issue. If the industry is to prosper, it must overcome its internal fractures and disagreements and put aside regional differences between low-sulphur and high-sulphur coal producers in formulating a response to proponents of acid rain legislation.

Over the years, coal has played a vital role in America's growth and development as a great world power. Coal remains America's most abundant energy resource; it is a national asset worth protecting.

The coal industry can do much to enhance its own position by forging a consensus on acid rain and other issues and by speaking with a single voice. The acid rain debate has produced an opportunity for unity, and thus for growth, that the coal industry cannot afford to ignore.

July 11, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Focus On Jobs

More than a year ago, I created a Senate task force to examine the long-run prospects for the American economy and the ability of the United States to compete in the international marketplace.

That task force produced a far-reaching document entitled "Jobs for the Future." Just recently, I joined several of my colleagues in the Senate in introducing comprehensive legislation based on the "Jobs for the Future" concept.

Unemployment remains unacceptably high in many states, including West Virginia. One reason for this is that unemployment and economic instability go hand-in-hand. For this reason, the cornerstone of the proposed jobs legislation -- called the Economic Competition and Cooperation Act of 1984 -- is the creation of a council of business, labor, government, and public representatives charged with developing a national strategy to combat unemployment and economic instability.

This bill also deals with the fundamental causes of unemployment and underemployment.

For example, it calls for improving industrial innovation; increasing the nation's commitment to education, especially in math

and science; changing unemployment and training systems to help workers adapt to changing technologies; increasing investment in small business; and expanding international negotiations to better balance worldwide supply and demand.

Between the time the task force undertook its study and the time this legislation was introduced, the economic situation in this country went through a variety of changes. But the recommendations being offered today are as timely now as when the task force first broached them, and they will continue to be necessary next year, and the year after that, and the year after that.

This is not a "quick fix" put together in the heat of a recession. It is a start in making the U.S. economy more competitive. It fosters the kind of behavior needed both within this country and between the U.S. and other countries that is needed to establish full employment on a permanent basis.

Although this bill would not eliminate all the barriers to full employment, it is an important step in the right direction. West Virginians, as all Americans, want and deserve an opportunity to work at good jobs. This bill is an essential part of what is needed to achieve that goal.

July 18, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Boost For The Steel Industry

America's steel industry got a much needed shot in the arm recently when the International Trade Commission (ITC) recommended that quotas and tariffs be imposed on some steel imports.

Although the ITC's action is only a recommendation which can be changed or even rejected by the President, the remedies proposed signal an increased awareness of the way unfair foreign competition has handicapped America's steel industry.

I am encouraged that the ITC is willing to recommend relief for the steel industry. This is particularly good news for West Virginia, where unemployment stands at nearly 14 percent, and where steelmaking and the production of coal used in steel are major industries. A healthy steel industry can translate into a healthier economy for West Virginia.

However, I am concerned that the ITC's recommendations will not go far enough. For instance, the ITC has found that only some segments of the steel industry are being harmed by unfair imports, and it has left other segments unprotected. This action in itself could prompt increased foreign competition in the unpro-

ected product lines.

The U.S. steel industry is vital to America's national security, and I believe the industry deserves our strongest support. Because the domestic steel industry has been so severely undercut by subsidized foreign steel illegally dumped into the open U.S. market, strong measures are needed to help it recuperate.

That is the intent of the Fair Trade in Steel Act, which I have joined in sponsoring. This legislation proposes a comprehensive policy to deal with the steel industry's problems. It would impose a 15 percent quota on steel imports over a period of five years, and it would require that American steelmakers plow revenues back into modernization of their own plants and equipment to accelerate their own recovery.

The quicker the steel industry gets back on its feet, the more jobs will be saved and the bigger boost the economy will get, not just in West Virginia but also throughout the country. The International Trade Commission is on the right track, and the Fair Trade in Steel Act is the logical next step to recovery.

July 25, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stealth: A Strategic Advantage

One of the key strategic advantages the United States holds over the Soviet Union is in the area of high technology.

And in this category, the so-called "Stealth" bomber is one of the most advanced and therefore one of the most valuable weapons systems the United States has under development.

The sophisticated technologies utilized in Stealth are designed to enable the aircraft to slip undetected into Soviet airspace, thus presenting major complications for Soviet military planning.

As such, Stealth is a crucial element of America's strategy to deter Soviet adventurism and makes a vital contribution to our overall defense capability.

For this reason, it is vitally important that we push full speed ahead on the production of the Stealth bomber, and that we make sure no funds are siphoned from the Stealth budget.

I believe that the Stealth program is so important to America's national security that I have again this year offered an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill that puts the Senate on record as endorsing Stealth and

prevents the transfer of any funds out of the Stealth budget.

This sends an important signal to our friends and foes alike on the significance which the Senate places in maintaining America's lead in defense technology. I believe this action also reflects the sentiments of most West Virginians.

However, this does not mean that we can take the Stealth program for granted or assume that its future is assured. The Stealth program and its funding level have been challenged by those who would delay or even scuttle the Stealth bomber in favor of expanding the B-1 bomber program.

Unfortunately, the B-1 bomber cannot match the capabilities of the Stealth, and it would be foolish to pour all our bomber money into the B-1 program at the expense of the Stealth. To do so would be to weaken our technological edge over the Soviets, eroding our biggest advantage.

The Stealth bomber will be a noteworthy addition to America's defense arsenal -- we must go forward with it aggressively and direct our efforts toward meeting its production schedule.

August 1, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Halting the Runaway Trade Deficit

The most recent trade figures released by the Commerce Department show that the United States is continuing to be plagued by dangerous trade shortfalls.

The Commerce Department reports that the U.S. trade shortfall for the first half of 1984 is a record \$59.7 billion, which is more than twice as high as the trade deficit in the first six months of last year.

And, economic analysts at the Commerce Department are predicting that the worst news is yet to come. They are forecasting a year-end shortfall of between \$120 billion and \$130 billion -- the largest trade deficit in the history of our country.

Unfortunately, multi-billion-dollar trade deficits are not just something for the economists to worry about. Trade deficits cost jobs -- an estimated 25,000 jobs are lost or not created for every \$1 billion in our trade shortfall.

The trade deficit is of special concern in West Virginia because export trade plays an important role in our state's economy.

The steel industry, in

West Virginia and elsewhere, is a good example of how trade deficits hurt our people. The unfair dumping of subsidized foreign steel into U.S. markets is devastating America's steel industry. Imports account for nearly 25 percent of the domestic steel market. For the first six months of this year, steel imports were the highest in history -- 73 percent higher than in the first half of 1983.

But more than steel is at stake in America's continuing trade crisis. The trade deficit is primarily the result of an overvalued dollar, brought on by high interest rates. Thus, the enormous federal budget deficit feeds the trade deficit, and both of these record deficits undermine the foundations of our economy.

A trade deficit of the magnitude we are facing threatens the economy of every state in the nation, particularly strong exporting states like West Virginia. We must take steps to ensure fair trading practices and to strengthen our economy so that this hemorrhage of jobs and dollars out of America can be stopped.

August 8, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Gold

The world was treated to a sample of courage and determination, West Virginia-style, during the 1984 Summer Olympics with the dazzling performances of gymnast Mary Lou Retton of Fairmont and sharpshooter Edward Etzel of Morgantown.

All West Virginians can take pride in these two gold medal winners. They serve as brilliant examples of what hard work and sacrifice can accomplish.

Mary Lou Retton became the first American ever to win the gold medal in the Olympic all-around gymnastics competition. Strong efforts by all the competitors elevated the competition to the level of perfection. Mary Lou Retton faced the daunting prospect of needing a perfect score on her final turn in order to win the gold medal. Millions of people worldwide watched as she overcame the intense pressure and achieved the perfect score of "10" on the vault -- thus winning the gold.

Two days after she turned in her gold medal performance, Mary Lou Retton competed again in the finals for each apparatus. She won a silver medal in the vault, bronze medals in the uneven bars and in floor exercise, and placed fourth in the balance beam. These efforts completed a memorable Olympic Games for

the remarkable Mary Lou Retton.

Edward Etzel -- West Virginia's master marksman -- made his spectacular performance look easy. He won a gold medal in rifle competition by shooting a near-perfect 599 points out of a possible 600. This particular event required a level of skill equivalent to hitting a dime from half the distance of a football field. Telescopic sights are not used in this event, so steadiness of hand and eye are tested to the limit.

Edward Etzel's score tied the Olympic record in English match shooting. There have been many expert marksmen in the history of West Virginia, and Edward Etzel's performance in the Olympics has earned him a place among the ranks of these legendary sharpshooters.

The 615 athletes of the United States Olympic team represented our country with dignity and courage, and turned the slur intended by the Soviet-sponsored Communist bloc boycott of the games into a tribute to American talent and tenacity.

All the members of the U.S. team are to be congratulated; they are all world-class competitors. West Virginia can take special pride in being the home of two of the best of these fine athletes.

August 15, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Encouraging Excellence in Education

Recent studies on the state of America's educational system have underscored the need for improvement in a broad range of subject areas, from raising student test scores to toughening graduation requirements.

The majority of these findings can be categorized as recommendations to improve the quality of American education.

In an effort to encourage excellence in education, I have introduced legislation which would establish a Federal Merit Scholarship Program.

This program would award scholarships to high school graduates who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

The scholarships would be based entirely on merit. Under the provisions of my bill, one-year scholarships of \$1,500 each would be awarded to 10 graduates in every congressional district in the country every year.

The program would be administered by the Secretary of Education, but responsibility for developing the criteria for selection and making the awards would rest at the state level. To begin this program, I have sought funding of \$8 million for three years.

This proposal is a departure from our traditional federal approach of needs-based programs. I believe there is a legitimate federal role in encouraging and rewarding excellence in education. This proposal does that.

In 1969, with my own funds, I established the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award Program for West Virginia students. Through this program, I award every valedictorian from every public, private, and parochial high school graduating class in West Virginia a savings bond in recognition of that student's achievements.

My own program is a very modest recognition of the achievements of gifted and talented students in West Virginia, but my experience with this program has convinced me that merit-based incentives can be effective in motivating students to strive to excel.

I believe the Federal Merit Scholarship Program I am proposing is a needed and appropriate federal effort to recognize and nurture America's gifted and talented students.

Such a program is a needed investment in our nation's future.

August 22, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toward A Stronger National Defense

Recent Pentagon reports have revealed that although the United States is spending billions of dollars on defense, our nation's military readiness has been allowed to decline.

The reports show that America's armed forces have only enough ammunition available at any given time to fight one small war in one part of the world for a limited period of time.

It is sobering to learn that despite the billions of dollars that have been poured into military spending over the past few years, our nation is not more secure, and in fact is "ready for anything" only if the "anythings" come one-at-a-time, and for a limited period of time.

Compounding our readiness problem is a foreign policy that relies heavily on tough-sounding rhetoric -- but then conducts business as usual with the very nations we condemn, such as the Soviet Union.

America can do better than this. Our nation needs a foreign policy and a defense strategy that

combine to make clear our vital interests in the world to friend and foe alike.

That is the message I took recently to the national convention of America's veterans of foreign wars in Chicago. It is a message that I hope the veterans, who know first-hand the horrors of war, will carry back to the elected officials in their home states.

The real test of the spine of a nation is consistency between words and action. It is important not to overstate. We damage our image, and our national morale, when we overstate, hype, and then back away. That is what happened in Lebanon, after a tragic loss of American lives.

We must do our best to ensure that there are no more Lebanons in America's future. Flamboyant, bellicose language can be satisfying, but it can also be counter-productive to a prudent foreign policy, and it can increase the levels of tension and risk. It is better to "speak softly and carry a big stick," than to bluff and bluster and carry a small stick.

August 29, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Maritime Industry

The United States, throughout its history, has prided itself on being a great maritime nation.

Our commercial fleets have played a leading role not only in America's economic growth and development but also in our national security.

Today, however, our merchant fleet is on the decline. The combined U.S. private fleet useful for military purposes currently includes about 244 general cargo ships. Even if the 180 ships in the mothballed National Defense Reserve Fleet were added to the merchant fleet, the total would be less than the 500 ships required more than a decade ago to support U.S. operations in Vietnam.

In short, the defense-related status of our maritime industry is cause for great concern. It has become apparent that both our current maritime assets and our shipbuilding base would be inadequate to meet the demands of a global war.

It is now, more than ever, that America needs a strong shipbuilding industry. Given our

widening global commitments, a healthy maritime industry is absolutely essential to our ability to defend our vital interests and to work with our allies in promoting free world interests.

Recently, I proposed the creation of a three-year commission to study the defense-related aspects of America's maritime industry and to recommend steps to strengthen that industry. I am concerned that the link between national security and maritime policy has not been given the priority it deserves.

It has been my consistent position that a strong industrial base -- and a strong steel industry as a central part of that base -- is essential for our national security. Building up the U.S. merchant marine fleet would strengthen both our country's basic heavy industries and our national security.

Our industrial base must be revitalized, and our maritime industry brought back to a position of strength, if we want to be fully prepared to meet our national security needs.

September 5, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting America's Senior Citizens

Americans are getting older. In 1900, only one person in 16 was 60 years of age or older. Today, one person in seven is in that age group nationally, and in West Virginia, the percentage is even higher -- nearly one West Virginian in six is over age 60.

Longer life is one of modern America's greatest triumphs, but it is also one of the nation's most pressing challenges. Finding new ways to increase a person's lifespan is no longer enough. It has become just as important to preserve and enhance the quality of life for older Americans.

Social Security has long been the foundation of support for America's elderly and perhaps the single most important factor in determining the quality of life for our nation's retirees. The Social Security system must be protected.

For this reason, I was disturbed to read in a recent news report that Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese, during a speech before a pension group,

criticized Social Security as a "tax and benefit program" but would not discuss the Administration's specific plans for the system.

Criticisms like the remarks Mr. Meese made raise serious questions about the Administration's future plans for Social Security, particularly since the Administration thus far has not elected to reveal its plans.

This kind of talk is very concerning. I believe we need to protect the Social Security system, not take pot shots at it. Since the beginning of the Social Security program, the United States government has been honor-bound to retired Americans, and to contributing workers and employers, to protect the integrity of the system.

As the number of elderly Americans increases, the importance of preserving the Social Security system increases. We must make sure the government recognizes that fact and keeps faith with America's senior citizens.

September 12, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building For The Future

Over the past few months, I have traveled extensively throughout West Virginia to attend ground-breakings or dedications of new water and wastewater treatment plants.

These public works systems are examples of the kind of progress that is needed to bring new resources and new prosperity to West Virginia.

Today, 73 percent of West Virginia's population is served by public water systems, and 48 percent of our people have access to public sewer systems.

This is an encouraging advance over 20 or 30 years ago. It shows that our state is moving in the right direction and that our communities are willing to lay the foundations to attract new businesses, industries, and residents.

But there is a reverse side to that coin -- more than a quarter of West Virginia's people do not enjoy public water supplies, and about half have no public sewer service.

That is why I am so impressed with the amount of activity occurring in this area. This demonstrates

clearly that West Virginia communities realize that the future does not just happen, and that communities create their own futures by the plans they lay and the investments they make in themselves.

These projects are not cheap. They require careful planning and budgeting and considerable federal support. I have always been pleased to assist in obtaining federal funds for these projects because the return on the government's investment is so great. One of the best routes to a more prosperous future is investing in the basic services that attract opportunities--and public water and wastewater treatment systems are high on the list of important investments.

West Virginia is a great state with a promising future. That future should not be postponed by a lack of decent public water or waste treatment systems, or by inadequate systems.

Improved public works facilities are wise investments. They are the foundations on which West Virginia can build a better way of life.

September 19, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ferroalloys: Help For An Ailing Industry

Increased foreign imports have had a tremendous impact on key sectors of the American economy, and of West Virginia's economy as well. The steel, auto, footwear, and copper industries have been the victims of foreign products often sold in the United States with the assistance of foreign subsidies or other unfair trade practices.

These are giant industries. They account for hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in annual sales.

But there is another American industry which, although it is only a fraction of the size of the industrial giants like steel and autos, is indispensable to the manufacture of everything from aluminum cans to computer chips. It is the American ferroalloys industry.

Almost every kind of specialty metal -- including those employed in the aerospace and defense industries -- is dependent on ferroalloys, and yet the American ferroalloys industry has lost 60 percent of the U.S. market to unfairly priced foreign goods.

This is a dangerous situation. The American ferroalloys industry has given other American industries a competitive edge by supplying the new metals technologies they need to produce advanced aircraft, drilling equipment, and a host of lighter, stronger

machinery and parts.

It is unthinkable that this industry could be driven out of business by unfair foreign competition, and yet that is what could happen if the United States does not take preventive action.

The health of the American ferroalloys industry is especially important to West Virginia because some of the most modern and efficient ferroalloys companies are located in the Mountain State, including Elkem in Fayette County, Foote Minerals in Mason County, and Chemetals in Preston County.

I was pleased, therefore, that the Senate recently adopted a trade bill amendment I sponsored that will, if agreed to by the House of Representatives, impose "breakpoint" duties on ferroalloy imports so that the price of imports will be competitive with the price of ferroalloys produced in the United States.

This legislation will have little effect on the price of ferroalloys, but it can have a major impact on the economic well-being of the American ferroalloys industry and, because of the nature of ferroalloys, on America's defense preparedness. Breakpoint duties are a small price to pay for enhanced national security and preservation of an essential American industry.

September 26, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Meeting the Challenge of an Aging America

Congress recently passed and sent to the President the 1984 update of a major piece of legislation that was first enacted nearly 20 years ago: the Older Americans Act.

This act, which has changed in some specifics but not in spirit over the years, remains as relevant today as when it was first passed in 1965. It is the one federal program that is directed solely toward improving the lives of America's senior citizens.

The Older Americans Act embraces a wide range of programs, from Meals-on-Wheels to information-and-referral services. The elderly in West Virginia and in every state have access to services provided under the Older Americans Act.

One of the most significant influences on American society today is the aging of its population. For the next half century, the number of elderly persons is expected to grow at a faster rate than the total population.

This increase in numbers, coupled with longer lifespans, will affect all aspects of our society. Helping the elderly live out their lives with dignity and indepen-

dence will become increasingly important.

That is the goal of the Older Americans Act, to help the elderly retain and maximize their independence. This goal is accomplished by programs that provide such services as transportation, home health care, homemaker services, shopping assistance, home repair, counseling, or other types of supportive services.

The 1984 Older Americans Act places special emphasis on providing long-term, community-based health care and on extending community services to those elderly persons who, because of economic, social, or health reasons, need extra services.

A special section on Alzheimer's disease -- a disease commonly known as senility and once thought to be an inevitable consequence of old age -- makes in-home and respite care for victims and their families a priority.

The Older Americans Act has grown over the years to meet the changing needs of our society. It has proved its worth time and again, and it deserves our continued support.

October 3, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bolstering a Needed Insurance Program

West Virginia, like all great coal-producing states, is a land honeycombed by underground coal mines, many of them long abandoned.

Most of the time, abandoned coal mines present no problem. But occasionally, in a phenomenon known as mine subsidence, abandoned underground coal mines cave in.

Property damage caused by mine subsidence is a serious problem in West Virginia and other states. Approximately 2 million acres of land in 30 states are endangered by mine subsidence. West Virginia faces an estimated \$500 million of mine subsidence problems, and the problem nationwide could exceed \$12.5 billion.

While newer, better designed mines are less likely to collapse, subsidence can result from mining that occurred as much as 100 years ago. And the impact of subsidence can be devastating to a property owner, ranging from serious damage to destruction of a home or property.

Mine cave-ins cannot be prevented, or in most cases even predicted. The federal government's Abandoned Mine Land Fund, financed by a tax on coal production in coal states like West Virginia, was established to handle

the expense of controlling mine subsidence. But the federal government does not compensate property owners for structural damage caused by mine subsidence.

West Virginia is among the states that have stepped in to fill this gap in protection by instituting state-managed mine subsidence insurance programs that cover the expense of structural repairs.

But any insurance program is expensive to start up, and until the program has been in operation long enough that insurance premiums make it self-sufficient, West Virginia does not have the necessary funds to underwrite its coverage.

To maintain this important insurance program until it can become self sufficient, I recently proposed a plan, which was endorsed by the U.S. Senate, to permit West Virginia and other states to use a portion of their Abandoned Mine Land funds to underwrite their insurance programs.

Because Abandoned Mine Land funds are state dollars, collected from coal states to address the problems created by abandoned mines, I believe that mine subsidence insurance is a fitting use for this protection, and states like West Virginia should be encouraged in their efforts to provide it.

October 10, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Finding the Families

For most Americans, the book was closed on the Vietnam war nearly a decade ago with the withdrawal of American troops from Southeast Asia.

But for the families of nearly 2,500 Americans still missing in Southeast Asia -- including 26 West Virginians -- the final chapter has yet to be written.

Some time ago, as I looked over the long list of names of those missing, I became convinced that Congress needed to reaffirm its commitment to the families of the missing that their loved ones are not forgotten and that an accounting for the missing-in-action remains at the top of this country's list of unfinished business.

I could think of no more fitting way to recognize the missing than by striking a commemorative Congressional medal to serve as an enduring symbol of America's commitment to our nation's missing-in-action.

This past summer, the first national POW-MIA medal honoring America's prisoners of war and missing-in-action was issued.

My hope now is that individual medals will be presented to the families of each of the West Virginians listed among the missing. But the years have taken their toll on the accuracy of government records, and today not all of the relatives of the 26 West Virginians can be located.

The list of West Virginia's missing servicemen includes the following:

Army: Albert Harold Altizer, Squire, McDowell County; Jerry Edward Auxier, Dixie, Nicholas County; Earl Roger Biggs, Matheny, Wyoming County; James Edward Duncan, Point Pleasant; Robert William Hunt, Beckley; Larry Francis Lucas,

Marmet, Kanawha County; Michael Robert Norton, Eskdale, Kanawha County; Joe Harold Pringle, Horner, Lewis County; Hughie Franklin Snyder, New Cumberland, Hancock County; Dean Calvin Spencer III, Morgantown; James Lawrence Taylor, Nitro, Kanawha County.

Air Force: John Scott Albright Jr., Huntington; Joseph Clair Austin, Moundsville, Marshall County; Ronnie Lee Hensley, Richwood, Nicholas County; Everett Oscar Kerr, Belmont, Pleasants County; Carrol Baxter Lilly, Morgantown; Edward Milton Parsley, Naugatuck, Mingo County; Marshall Irvin Pauley, Milton, Cabell County; Raymond Paul Salzarulo Jr., Follansbee, Brooke County; and George Winton Thompson, Beckley.

Navy: Keith Royal Wilson Curry, Salem, Harrison County; David Wallace Wickham, Wheeling. Marines: Danny Marshall, Waverly, Wood County; Ronald Keith Pennington, Hambleton, Tucker County; James Ray Sargent, Anawalt, McDowell County; and Hobart McKinley Wallace Jr., Sharon, Kanawha County.

Those with information on the whereabouts of West Virginia MIA families are encouraged to write to the National League of Families West Virginia Coordinator, Louis Peake, at 3602 Skyview Drive, Huntington, W. Va., 25701.

The families of the missing-in-action have kept this issue at the forefront of America's conscience through their dedication and perseverance. It is my hope that all those who are entitled to receive the commemorative medal will be located.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Voting Is Our Duty!

November 6 is Election Day, and a day for all eligible West Virginia voters to take a few moments to go to the polls and cast their ballots.

Our right -- indeed our duty -- to vote in America is one of our most cherished and important privileges.

Voting is a duty we must fulfill.

Unfortunately, however, over the past several decades fewer and fewer Americans have been going to the polls on Election Day.

At the beginning of this century, in the election of 1900, 74 percent of all eligible voters cast their ballots. Eighty years later, in our 1980 Presidential election, only 53.9 percent of the voting age population voted, and Mr. Reagan received only 50.8 percent of the votes of those who voted. In other words, Mr. Reagan was elected President by only slightly over one-fourth of the U.S. voting-age population.

For increasing numbers of voters, apparently, it has become easy to sit on the sidelines on Election Day and say, "My one vote really doesn't count that much, anyway."

But history refutes that notion.

In at least four Presidential elections -- those of Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman, and John F. Ken-

nedy -- the margin of victory was less than one vote per precinct in only one or two key states.

By not exercising our voting privilege and performing our duty to vote, we risk having a government that is not elected by and responsive to the whole citizenry, but one that feels a compulsion to heed the demands of single-issue and special interest groups whose political power is greatly out of proportion to their actual numbers.

The issues that face all of us today -- runaway federal deficits, tax fairness, keeping our social security commitments, and maintaining a strong national security while working for peace -- are too important for us to allow a minority of voting-age Americans to choose those who will deal with such issues.

West Virginians can be proud that our voter turn-out in 1980 was significantly higher than the national average. That year, 737,715 of West Virginia's 1,034,546 registered voters -- or 71 percent -- cast their ballots on Election Day.

In 1980, we showed America that West Virginians take their voting privileges seriously.

On Election Day 1984, let West Virginians again show America that we know the importance of exercising our privilege of voting.

October 24, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Partner In The War Against Cancer

For many years, West Virginians battling cancer have had to go out of state to obtain the latest advances in cancer treatment and therapy.

Not only is there no cancer center in West Virginia, but up until now, there has been no organized approach to cancer research, detection or state-of-the-art treatment anywhere in the Appalachian region.

But all that may change soon. At my request, Congress recently appropriated \$4.5 million to begin development of a cancer research and treatment center to be headquartered at West Virginia University in Morgantown.

This will be West Virginia's first comprehensive, in-state cancer center, and it will be designed to serve the needs of all West Virginians. The facility will have outreach centers in Charleston, Huntington, and Wheeling, and its staff will work in concert with doctors and hospitals throughout West Virginia.

This cancer center will focus on early detection, prevention, and treatment of cancer. It will place special emphasis on those

cancers prevalent in West Virginia, such as lung cancer.

This facility is to be named the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center as a tribute to the late wife of Senator Jennings Randolph of West Virginia. Mrs. Randolph, who died of cancer following a lengthy and courageous battle, was known for her compassion and concern for the well-being of others. I believe it is fitting to name in her honor a center that will be dedicated to easing suffering and to working toward the prevention and cure of cancer.

The Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center will take approximately four years to build, at a total federal cost of \$16 million to be matched by an equal amount of funding from the private sector.

It will be money well spent for the future health of West Virginians. In the years ahead, I believe that all who have joined in supporting this cancer center will find it to be not only an enduring tribute to Mrs. Randolph, but also an effective weapon in the war against cancer for the people of West Virginia and, ultimately, for all Americans.

October 31, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

AWARDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

American education is in the midst of a crisis today -- a crisis of excellence.

This crisis threatens America's prosperity and security. Our nation's once unchallenged leadership in commerce, industry, science, and technological innovation is being overtaken by competitors throughout the world.

Mediocrity is not good enough. It is time to return the notion of excellence to American education. Parents, teachers, and school administrators have the most direct roles in this effort, but through a new provision in the law, the federal government also will have an opportunity to encourage academic achievement.

This provision is the Federal Merit Scholarship Program, which I authored and which was recently enacted by Congress. This program, which should be in operation by the spring of 1986, establishes one-year scholarships -- earmarked for a student's first year of college or higher education -- to be awarded

to each of 10 outstanding students in every Congressional district in the country.

West Virginia has four Congressional districts; therefore, 40 West Virginia students will be eligible to receive these \$1,500 scholarships every year.

Scholarships awarded under the Federal Merit Scholarship Program are to be administered by state education agencies and to be based solely on academic achievement. My hope is that the availability of these scholarships will be an incentive to spur students onto greater academic achievement.

The Federal Merit Scholarship Program recognizes America's young academic achievers as the champions they are. The future of our nation hinges on our young people. It is the goal of this program to encourage these young men and women to achieve their potential so that they will be well prepared to restore America's preeminence in the world.

November 14, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Computer Science: New ABC's of Education

The scientific know-how that has helped to create such sophisticated pieces of equipment as the space shuttle is only one example of America's new age of technology.

New developments in computer technology are among the most important factors in encouraging scientific breakthroughs, so I am pleased that the state of West Virginia has embarked on an ambitious program to establish a statewide school computer education program.

With equal access to computer technology emerging as one of the most important educational challenges of the 1980's, West Virginia's program is especially commendable.

However, like many states, West Virginia does not have the financial resources to send its computer program into all grades at all of the state's schools.

To help students in states like West Virginia, I joined Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey in sponsoring legislation during the last session of Congress that would in-

crease computer education opportunities. This is an extremely important program, and it is one I intend to continue fighting for when Congress begins a new session next year.

The legislation I support targets federal assistance to schools and students who need it most, and it emphasizes planning by schools to ensure that the best computer education program is pursued. It is a tribute to West Virginia's school planners that our state's computer education plan was used in the bill as a model system.

Teacher training and the development of computer programs specifically for elementary and secondary school students are additional features of the bill.

Along with reading, writing, and arithmetic, computer science has become one of the basics of a quality education. Government has a legitimate role in ensuring equal access to computer education -- I am hopeful that this role will be translated into legislation during the coming session of Congress.

November 21, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: Winter Wonderland

Wintertime is one of West Virginia's best kept secrets.

But what West Virginians have known for a long time, the rest of the country is beginning to discover: West Virginia has an outstanding winter recreation industry.

Easy accessibility to the Eastern seaboard, magnificent winter scenery, and a network of easy-to-expert ski slopes are helping to make West Virginia a favorite destination of winter vacationers and weekend visitors.

Among the most popular ski resorts are Canaan Valley State Park, a 6,000-acre resort near Davis in Tucker County where the average annual snowfall is 180 inches; and Snowshoe Resort in Pocahontas County, which averages 200-plus inches of snow a year and which boasts Cupp Run, one of the longest continuous drops in the East.

Other popular ski resorts in the state, according to the West Virginia Ski Association, include Alpine Lake in Terra Alta, Preston County; Timber-

line near Canaan Valley; Oglebay Park in Wheeling, Ohio County; and Winterplace at Flat Top, in Mercer County.

Cross country skiing also is becoming a popular winter sport in West Virginia with Pipestem State Park, in Summers and Mercer Counties, offering some of the most beautiful scenery in the state.

Wintertime is certainly not West Virginia's only recreational season -- hiking, canoeing, white water rafting, hunting, fishing, and golfing are only some of the sports that make our state a year-round vacation destination -- but it is only recently that West Virginia has gained a reputation out of state for its excellent winter sports facilities.

All of these activities point to the fact that tourism is becoming an important element of West Virginia's economy. This is a healthy sign and a development that, if nurtured carefully, can bring many cultural and economic benefits to the Mountain State.

November 28, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drinking + Driving: A Recipe for Tragedy

The holiday season is a time of good cheer and celebration with our families, friends, and neighbors. For most Americans, it is a season of great happiness.

But holiday celebrating can turn into tragedy in a split second on the highway if alcohol or drugs are mixed with driving.

The statistics alone are sobering:

- In the past decade, 250,000 Americans have lost their lives as the result of alcohol-related accidents.

- Fifty percent of all highway deaths involve the use of alcohol.

- Automobile accidents are the Number One cause of death for Americans under age 35 -- and more than half these deaths are caused by drunk drivers.

- West Virginia led the nation last year in the number of traffic deaths compared to miles traveled.

Thousands of Americans -- especially young people -- are dying needlessly, tragically on the nation's highways every year because of drunk driving. Hundreds of thousands more are crippled or injured as a result of drunk driving.

The problem of drunk driving is especially acute during the holiday season, when more people are socializing and more drivers are on the road. This year, you can help by making safety your holiday motto.

Do not, under any circumstances, drink and drive.

If you are with someone who has been drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. Drive the person home or arrange other transportation.

Sometimes it takes courage to be a good friend or a good citizen when it comes to drinking and driving, but the stakes are too high to ignore.

December 5, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Helping Hand For Ethiopia

The Holiday Season is a time when Americans traditionally open their hearts, and their pocket-books, to the poor and the needy.

Whether it be dropping coins into the familiar red pails of the Salvation Army, collecting toys for disadvantaged children, or baking cookies for an elderly neighbor, Americans make a special effort during the holidays to share their good fortune with those who have less.

Fortunately, we live in a nation that has the resources to help ease the hardship of poverty or unemployment. An array of federal and state programs, including unemployment compensation, Medicaid, and heating fuel assistance are available to those who need a helping hand.

Not every nation is as fortunate as we are. The tragic photographs and news reports of the famine victims in Ethiopia have brought into our living rooms evidence of suffering beyond the comprehension of many Americans.

Massive amounts of outside aid are needed to save the children of Ethiopia. Many Americans,

and many West Virginians, have helped already, but more help is needed. We can help without shortchanging the needy in our own country by reaching a little deeper into our pockets and into our hearts to help these children in their fight for survival.

Many charities are conducting relief operations for Ethiopia, including churches and community organizations. In addition, donations can be sent to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) or to the American Red Cross. Contributions marked for Ethiopian relief can be addressed to the U.S. Committee for UNICEF and sent to 110 Maryland Avenue N.E., Box 36, Washington, D.C. 20002. Contributions for Ethiopian relief addressed to the American Red Cross can be sent to your local Red Cross office or to the Central West Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross, 1605 Virginia Street, East, Charleston, W. V. 25311.

This Christmas, your generosity can mean the difference between life and death for a starving youngster.

December 12, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering Afghanistan

"Peace on Earth" is a theme we hear repeated in song and verse and Scripture throughout the Holiday Season.

Americans can be thankful, as we celebrate the holidays and usher in the New Year, that ours is a nation at peace and that we live in a free country.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for all nations.

Afghanistan is one such example. December 27th marks the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. It is an important anniversary because it focuses the attention of the world once again on an almost forgotten war.

Afghanistan is a world away from West Virginia, but its people share the same kind of independence that spurred on the men and women who settled West Virginia and the rest of America's frontier decades ago.

This fierce independence has sustained the Afghan freedom fighters for the past five years, and it encourages them to fight on in the face of enormous hardships.

But the war has taken

its toll. The Soviet invaders have destroyed crops, food supplies, farms, hospitals, and public buildings in their efforts to subdue the Afghans. Many Afghans have fled their homeland to escape the Soviet atrocities. Those who remain lack adequate food and medical supplies.

Efforts have been made to assist the Afghans, including Senate adoption of a resolution I offered that urges all free world governments to assist the Afghan people in their struggle for freedom by providing food and medical assistance.

Americans know the price of freedom -- our forefathers paid that price to win freedom for this country. We cannot turn our backs on the struggle for liberty that is now being waged by the brave freedom fighters in Afghanistan.

This Holiday Season, as we give thanks to God for our blessings and reflect on the peace and freedom all Americans enjoy, we should also remember the brave people of Afghanistan and their five-year struggle to regain these precious gifts.

December 19, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Proven Leadership

Proven leadership is important to the future of Congress and to the future of the country.

It was on the basis of proven leadership that I was recently elected to my fifth term as Democratic Leader of the United States Senate, and I look forward to continuing my service to the people of West Virginia and the nation in this position during the upcoming session of Congress.

The 98th Congress was a good session for West Virginia, and I believe the 99th Congress will see continued progress on the issues that are important to our state.

For example, in the last session of Congress, I was able to forge a consensus on the future of the synthetic fuels program that sets aside \$750 million to establish a new Clean Coal Technology Program, which will benefit the economy of coal-producing states like West Virginia.

I am hopeful that the new Congress will also make progress on other programs that I have spearheaded, including:

- Continued federal funding for the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center --- West Virginia's first comprehensive, in-state cancer research and treatment center -- to be located at West Virginia University in Morgantown;

- Appropriation of funds for the Robert C. Byrd Federal Merit Scholarship Program, for which I have secured Congressional authorization; and

- Progress on major water projects, including the Tug Fork Flood Control Project in southern West Virginia, lock-and-dam work at Gallipolis on the Ohio River, and authorization for locks and dam 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River.

Vision and perspective are important ingredients of leadership. They are among the qualities that I have emphasized in my service to West Virginians in the past, and I will continue to use these qualities as guidelines in addressing the important issues facing the 99th Congress.

December 26, 1984



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thank You, Senator Randolph

Jennings Randolph's retirement from the U.S. Senate as of January 3, 1985, marks the end of our 26 - year Senate partnership working together for West Virginia.

That partnership has resulted in a better West Virginia -- through such programs as the Appalachian Regional Development Act, the Economic Development Act, black lung laws, and a host of other efforts to promote our state's economic development, from the interstate highway system to flood control projects.

During our years of service together, Senator Randolph and I have shared the same vision for our state: that of a prosperous West Virginia offering a good and decent place in which to live and work.

Both Senator Randolph and I have dedicated our efforts to achieving that goal, and to ensuring that West Virginia continues to make the gains so necessary to our state's prosperity.

Fortunately, "retirement" is not a word in Jen-

nings Randolph's vocabulary. Even after Senator Randolph leaves the Senate, I know he will continue to devote his time and attention to the needs of West Virginia.

Through his many interests -- in the handicapped, cancer research, senior citizens, young people and education, and the underprivileged and disadvantaged -- Jennings Randolph will have abundant opportunity to continue his service to West Virginians.

Jennings Randolph's warmth, thoughtfulness, sincerity, and graciousness will be missed in the U.S. Senate. He has touched the lives of millions of Americans and thousands of West Virginians through his work. And he has been a staunch friend and colleague to me throughout our years of service together.

Senator Randolph has earned the respect and gratitude of all who know him. He deserves our heartfelt thanks for a job well done, and our best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

January 2, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Squaring Off On Arms Control

Negotiating a workable arms control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union is one of the most pressing issues facing both superpowers -- and the world -- today.

West Virginians share with all Americans a stake in the achievement of responsible arms control agreements. Any accord with the Soviet Union to restrict, control, or reduce strategic weapons will vitally affect the security of the United States and all Americans.

The Soviets are tough negotiators, and it will not be easy to reach an agreement with them, particularly an agreement that provides for mutual weapons reductions.

We must also be mindful that the Soviets have been deceptive before. Any agreements with them must be structured so that if the Soviets cheat, we will know it.

To stand the test of time, I believe that any arms control agreement must receive substantial support from the American public. This consensus can best be achieved through the traditional treaty making process, in which the Senate plays a central role.

In view of the current plans to resume arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union, I recently

took steps to ensure that the Senate is informed on a regular basis about the progress of any negotiations that take place.

In December, I suggested to the President that a bipartisan group of Senators be sent as observers to any arms control negotiations and on January 3rd, the first measure adopted by the Senate was a resolution I cosponsored urging the inclusion of Senate observers in any U.S. arms control delegation.

On the following day, after a meeting with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz at the White House, I was pleased to join with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole in appointing a bipartisan Senate delegation to serve as arms control observers.

News that the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to resume negotiations is encouraging. While the United States should prepare to proceed in good faith, we should also move with caution when dealing with the Soviets. The security of America and its citizens must be the top priority for any U.S. delegation working to reach an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union.

January 9, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotlines: Information You Can Use

West Virginians with federally related questions or problems have access to information through a variety of toll-free telephone hotlines.

Listed below are some toll-free hotlines maintained by the federal government that may be useful to West Virginians.

Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Retired Army Pay.....	1-800-428-2290
Army Employment Information.....	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Employment Information.....	1-800-423-2600
Navy Employment Information.....	1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse....	1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management Agency.....	1-800-638-6620
(Flood insurance information)	
National Health Information Clearinghouse.....	1-800-336-4797
Cancer Information, Department of Health and Human Services.....	1-800-638-6694
Parents Anonymous (child abuse).....	1-800-421-0353
National Runaway Switchboard.....	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Transportation Department.....	1-800-424-9393
(Auto safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center....	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the nation's capital)	

January 23, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Preserving American Industries

"Made in America" is a label that many look for when buying a product -- whether it be clothing, an appliance, furniture, or a pair of shoes.

That label, unfortunately, is appearing less and less often as cheap foreign imports flood our country, eroding our domestic market, shutting down many of our manufacturers, and robbing our workers of jobs.

This trend, which is so damaging to our nation, must be reversed. That is why I have sponsored and supported measures in Congress to stop unfair trade.

The ferroalloy industry is one example of a vital U.S. industry that has been hit hard by underpriced imports.

Ferroalloys might not be a household word, but they are crucial to our national defense effort. They are tough, versatile metals that are essential components in a variety of military equipment, such as jet engines, ships, tanks, and other weapons.

Unfortunately, employment in the ferroalloy industry is 50 percent below 1979 levels -- and the unchecked flow of ferroalloy imports threatens to shut down the entire domestic ferroalloy industry.

Such an occurrence would force us to rely on other countries for our fer-

roalloy needs, which could jeopardize our entire national defense effort. This is a point I made in a letter to the President last year in support of the ferroalloy industry, and I believe the President received some bad advice when he determined that ferroalloy imports do not threaten U.S. national security.

The national security issue, coupled with the importance of the ferroalloy industry to West Virginia, prompted me to reintroduce legislation -- which the U.S. Senate passed last session -- to impose "breakpoint" pricing on all ferroalloy imports. Breakpoint pricing would bring the price of foreign ferroalloy imports up to that of the domestic market, enabling American producers to regain a competitive edge.

That could be helpful to West Virginia's ferroalloy producers -- Elkem Metals in Fayette County, Chemetals in Preston County, and Foote Minerals in Mason County -- which have been forced to lay off more than 1,000 West Virginians because of unfair trading practices.

Steps must be taken to ensure that all American industries have the chance to compete on a fair, equal footing with foreign competitors. We need to see that "Made in America" label more often.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting For Economic Development

When Weirton Steel employees were putting together a financial package in their successful buy-out of that facility, one of the federal agencies to which they turned was the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The EDA came through with a grant to help Weirton Steel's employees meet the administrative costs of setting up their Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

The EDA grant, which contributed to the ESOP's success, is just one of many instances in which the Economic Development Administration has benefited West Virginia.

Over the years, millions of EDA dollars have been channeled to West Virginia in the form of public works, planning, and technical assistance grants -- grants that have been translated into community improvements and jobs for West Virginians.

At present, West Virginia has nearly \$6 million in grant applications pending before the EDA.

I was concerned, therefore, when the Administration recently announced that it was impounding almost all of EDA's funding for the current fiscal year -- \$179 million of the \$202 million appropriated.

In response to that announcement, I joined a number of my colleagues in

sponsoring a Senate resolution opposing the Administration's plan.

The Administration cannot permanently impound the EDA funds without Congressional approval, and I believe our Senate resolution signals the White House that Congress wants the EDA to remain intact.

The attempt by the White House to find budget savings in important programs like those offered by the Economic Development Administration -- which has as its main goals promoting economic development and creating jobs -- is a prime example of a penny-wise, pound-foolish approach to our country's current budget deficit problems.

Without the help of the Economic Development Administration, many of our West Virginia communities -- and many other communities across the country -- would not be able to afford the projects so crucial to attracting and keeping industry and creating jobs.

The programs of the Economic Development Administration have borne fruit in building better communities and increasing job opportunities -- and those programs are worth fighting to keep. That is what we in the Senate will be doing in the coming months, as we work to keep the EDA alive.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Television: A New Role for the Senate

It may not be the most popular program on the air, but television coverage of the U.S. House of Representatives has brought an important part of Congress into the living rooms of millions of Americans across the country.

But the House of Representatives represents only half of Congress. To complete the picture, I believe the American public should have similar access, through television, to the floor of the United States Senate.

For this reason, I recently introduced legislation that would for the first time allow television cameras to capture legislative debate on the Senate floor.

Proposals for television coverage of the Senate have been controversial for the past several years, and with good reason. The Senate's tradition of free and open debate has remained in place for 196 years, and there are those who fear that the unblinking eye of

the television camera would change the unique role of the Senate.

The rules and procedures of the Senate are very different from those of the House and must be considered when introducing television into the chamber, but I believe that the rules and procedures can be accommodated while adjusting to the realities of our time.

Television is without question a reality of the 20th century. It is fast becoming the foremost means of communication in the world. And without television, the Senate is fast becoming the invisible half of Congress.

I have proposed televising the Senate because I believe the American people deserve equal access to both chambers of Congress, and an opportunity to follow Senate debate, to analyze the arguments on all sides of an issue, and to draw their own conclusions.

Wednesday, February 13, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting Help from the IRS

Federal income tax returns are due April 15, and that means that many West Virginians are currently in the midst of calculating income and expenses and filling out Internal Revenue Service forms.

The IRS maintains a variety of services to help you get the right tax forms for your needs, and to answer your federal tax questions.

To call the IRS toll-free from West Virginia, the telephone number is 1-800-424-1040. IRS personnel at this number will assist you in obtaining federal tax forms, answer questions you may have in filling out your tax forms, or refer you to a taxpayer assistance program in your community.

West Virginians who prefer to write for tax forms and publications should send their order to IRS Forms Distribution Center; P.O. Box 6900; Florence, Kentucky 41042.

In addition to these central services, the IRS maintains a permanent district office at 425 Juliana Street in Parkersburg that is open from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Taxpayer assistance offices are open in several West Virginia communities during filing season. Some are open five days a week, and others operate on a part-time schedule. Following is a list of federal tax-

payer assistance offices in West Virginia, including locations and the days and hours of operation:

BECKLEY: 101 Harper Park Drive, Suite E; Mondays and Tuesdays, 8-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-4:15 p.m.

BLUEFIELD: Federal Building, Federal and Scott Streets; Wednesdays plus April 15, 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-3:00 p.m.

BRIDGEPORT: 170 Thompson Drive, Holiday Plaza; Fridays plus April 15, 9-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-3:15 p.m.

CHARLESTON: Federal Building, 500 Quarrier Street; Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

HUNTINGTON: U.S. Courthouse, 5th Avenue and 9th Street; Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

LOGAN: Suite 1, R K Building, Washington and Stratton Streets; February 25, March 11, April 1 and April 15; 9:45-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

MARTINSBURG: Federal Building, West King Street and Maple Avenue; 2nd and 4th Monday of each month plus April 15, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

MORGANTOWN: 75 High Street; Mondays, 8-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-4:15 p.m.

WHEELING: 12th and Chapline Streets, Federal Office Building; Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: Home of Patriots

Not long ago, in an appearance on Capitol Hill, Budget Director David Stockman called America's military retirement system "an outrage."

He charged that "institutional forces in the military are more concerned about protecting their retirement benefits than they are about protecting the security of the American people."

Mr. Stockman's outburst did little to serve his cause. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger accused the Administration's chief budget officer of defaming the men and women of the armed forces who sacrificed for the security of the United States, and even those sympathetic with Mr. Stockman's efforts to cut the budget took exception to his attack on the military.

Among those upset with Mr. Stockman are a number of West Virginians who have contacted me, and I can understand their concerns.

Throughout its history, West Virginia has been one of the most patriotic states in the nation. West Virginia ranked fifth in participants as a percentage of the male population in World War II, first in the Korean conflict, and

second in the Vietnam War.

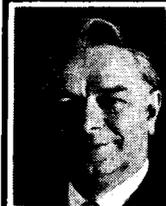
Our state ranked first during the Vietnam and Korean conflicts in deaths as a percentage of the male population.

These figures show that West Virginia's military men and women have been willing to fight for their country and for their freedom. Ever since the state of West Virginia was born during the strife of the Civil War, the young men and women of our state have been willing to stand up and be counted, to sacrifice, and to give their lives, to defend the security of the United States.

No other state has sent such a consistently high percentage of its young men to war. It is clear that West Virginians have historically placed the defense of freedom above personal considerations.

Comments such as those Mr. Stockman made can sting, but they cannot tarnish the character of our military men and women. West Virginians are proud of their country and of the soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who, over the years, have contributed so much to the security of the United States.

Wednesday, February 27, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Welcoming the Democrats to West Virginia

This month, Democrats from both the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have scheduled weekend breaks from the crush of business on Capitol Hill to discuss some important issues facing our nation today.

I think it is a tribute to the beauty and serenity of our state that both the House and Senate Democrats selected West Virginia as the site of their conferences.

House Democrats met at the Greenbrier recently, and I have invited Senate Democrats to a conference in Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, over the last weekend in March.

This will be the second time I have brought Senate Democrats to West Virginia -- in 1981, I brought my colleagues to Canaan Valley State Park in Tucker County for a similar conference. That first conference was a tremendous success and convinced me that these meetings can be extremely valuable.

I am especially pleased that West Virginia is rec-

ognized as an ideal location both by my colleagues in the Senate and by the Democratic leadership in the House. West Virginia is one of the most beautiful states in our nation, and I am always proud to show it off to my fellow members of Congress.

More importantly, West Virginia provides a quiet and peaceful environment in which House and Senate Democrats can meet to talk about the problems our nation is facing and the contributions we can make toward solving those problems.

Democrats have an agenda -- we believe America's economy must remain second to none; we believe education for our children is a key to our future; we believe in a strong national defense; and we want a dollar's worth of defense for every defense dollar spent.

Our hope, through the conferences we are holding in West Virginia, is to focus on our vision of the future for this country and chart the course we will take to reach our goals.

March 6, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Auto Imports: Who Should Call the Shots?

The United States, reeling under the impact of a record \$123 billion trade deficit in 1984 -- topped off by a \$10.3 billion trade shortfall in the first month of 1985 -- is in the midst of a foreign trade crisis.

In view of our current trade situation, I cannot help but believe that the President got some bad advice recently when he decided against asking Japan to continue its quotas on automobile exports to the United States.

Japan is responsible for nearly a third of the entire U.S. trade deficit -- \$37 billion of the \$123 billion in 1984, and \$3.7 billion of the \$10.3 billion in January of this year -- and more than half of our trade deficit with Japan is the result of auto imports.

It seems unrealistic to me to leave the fate of America's auto, glass, and steel industries in the hands of the Japanese government, and I do not believe that the thousands of West Virginians employed in these and related industries are willing to let Japan set the agenda for their industries.

I am reluctant to give

up any concession that the Japanese have made without some significant reciprocity in our trade relationship. I know, from my experience in encouraging increased purchases of West Virginia coal, that Japanese leaders are slow to make concessions.

It is extremely important to work toward a better balance with our trading partners because trade deficits cost U.S. jobs, and they cost business for strong exporting states like West Virginia.

The International Trade Commission estimates that last year's trade deficit would have been \$4 billion higher without the restraints to Japanese autos, and that approximately 44,000 American jobs were saved by continuing the quotas.

America's trade deficit strikes directly at the economy of states like West Virginia. It is unfortunate that the Administration has handed Japan a decision that could boost the trade deficit even more without gaining any advantage for American industry and workers.

March 13, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Competing For Defense Dollars

West Virginia businesses produce hundreds of top-quality products each year that could be used in our national defense effort -- everything from rubber rafts and canvas sacks to sophisticated electronics gear.

A needed approach is to match our West Virginia sellers with Defense Department buyers -- a feat not always easy for those confronted with the often confusing network of offices to contact and forms to complete.

West Virginia businesses interested in selling to the Department of Defense and some of its largest defense contracting companies can get information helpful to them as defense suppliers by attending the Defense Trade Fair I am sponsoring in Charleston on April 4.

This trade fair -- which will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Charleston -- will feature presentations by top Defense Department officials, as well as by representatives from some of the nation's largest defense contractors, such as Lockheed, Boeing, Northrop, Westinghouse, and Rockwell International.

This will be the fourth defense trade fair that I

have hosted for West Virginians as part of my effort to bring more defense dollars into our state.

The Pentagon buys tens of billions of dollars in goods from our country's businesses every year, but, unfortunately, West Virginia's share of that business has been low. I believe that West Virginia's share of Pentagon business can be increased.

One thing that might enable West Virginians to participate in more defense contracts is the establishment of a West Virginia chapter of the American Defense Preparedness Association (ADPA), a nationwide group that shares information on defense issues and defense contracts.

During this Defense Trade Fair, I will be sponsoring the organizational meeting for a West Virginia ADPA chapter, and I will be encouraging our businesses to get involved in the group.

West Virginia businesses can play a bigger role in our national defense efforts, and I hope that my upcoming Defense Trade Fair and my other defense-related activities will help broaden West Virginia's defense industrial base and draw more Pentagon dollars into our state.

March 20, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Arms Control Talks: An Optimistic Start

Recently, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole and I led a delegation of Senate observers to the opening round of the new U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva, Switzerland.

I believe our trip was valuable.

Our delegation of 10 Senators undertook this mission with two main goals, both of which we fulfilled. First, we wanted to convey to the Soviets and to the rest of the world that the U.S. negotiating team is backed by strong bipartisan support.

Secondly, we wanted to demonstrate our commitment to fulfilling the Senate's unique constitutional role in the area of treaty-making. The Senate must advise and consent to any treaty which may result from these talks -- and it will take far more than just a cursory understanding of the very complex issues to be resolved for the Senate to exercise its responsibility properly.

The trip was productive and useful. We came away with a strong feeling of unity, that we are all Americans with the common goal of trying to reach a sound agreement with the Soviets that would be in the best interest of our country.

I am optimistic at the start of these talks, but I also believe that a word of caution is in order. These negotiations are not going to be easy or short-lived. The Soviets can be stubborn, obstinate, and tenacious bargainers at the negotiating table, and our negotiators must be tough, patient, and willing to hold out for a good agreement.

The Soviets may well believe that Americans, who are accustomed to "instant" everything, will cave in on key issues if the Soviets just sit tight and bide their time. But this matter is too important to settle for a quick fix.

I would rather see no agreement at all than to see the American negotiators stampeded by political pressures into a bad agreement. These talks are for keeps. Their outcome will affect not only ourselves, but also the generations that follow us.

Our negotiators must be watchful and wary and ever mindful that the United States cannot afford to compromise national security in the interests of expediency. Our goal must be to reach a good treaty, one that advances the security of the United States, and is in the best interests of our nation.

March 27, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Education: A Wise Investment

Not long ago, columnist Ann Landers published a letter from a 12th grade English teacher seeking comment on a student whose poor performance in class led to the discovery that the student could not read.

"I am embarrassed and sad that my colleagues had allowed the boy to slip by all these years, but I am also distressed that parents could let a son reach the 12th grade without noticing he can't read," the teacher wrote.

Ann Landers agreed: "I see here a double tragedy -- and it is happening all over the country. I call it a national disgrace."

That such a tragedy can occur is evidence of the severe problems facing our educational system at all levels -- elementary, secondary, and higher education.

The most pressing problem facing American education today is the need to regain a standard of excellence.

There is, for example, a critical shortage of math and science skills in our students. Japanese high school students ranked first while ours ranked 15th in a recent study of science and mathematics excellence. The typical Japanese high school student takes six years of

science and math; the average Soviet student takes twice as much. By contrast, fewer than half of American high school graduates take any math or science after the 10th grade.

The Japanese, with half of our population, are graduating more engineers than the United States. Almost half of the doctoral degrees awarded in engineering by American universities in 1981 went to citizens of other countries.

In the face of this crisis in education, I think that it is shortsighted for this Administration to propose deep cuts in funding for education, especially higher education.

West Virginians tell me they are worried that they will not be able to send their children to college. Educators are worried that financial ability will take the place of scholastic ability as the test for admittance to college.

There are few more important tasks before us than making America's educational system number one in the world. Just as we recognize the need to invest resources to ensure our nation's military defense, so too must we invest in education, which is the front line of our national security.

April 3, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Tip of the Hat

In the past three years, Richard Viglianco of West Virginia University has spent 5,411 hours on voluntary public service and personal development activities.

Steven Edmond of Fairmont State College has donated 5,291 hours in the same pursuits; Michael B. Stern, also of Fairmont State, has donated 2,435 hours; Elizabeth Skidmore of Clarksburg, 1,833 hours; and Margaret Joan Enos of WVU, 1,815 hours.

Each of these young West Virginians was honored recently during ceremonies on Capitol Hill as part of the Gold Congressional Award program.

The West Virginians were among 48 young people from across the nation who received the special congressional awards, which are given to highlight the initiative and achievement of those between the ages of 14 and 23.

West Virginia is one of 10 states participating in the pilot program for the award, which I helped establish as a way of recognizing the contributions of outstanding young Americans. Each member of Congress has the opportunity to establish a Congressional Award Council to promote this program.

Our goal is to expand the program so that young people in each of the 50

states can work to achieve Congressional Awards. This effort is being undertaken by the Congressional Award Foundation, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, which oversees the program. The foundation is funded by private sector contributions.

I was proud to participate in the award ceremonies for this year's congressional award winners, and to congratulate them personally for setting goals and striving to meet those goals.

And I was proud to congratulate these young winners for selflessly giving of themselves to help others -- for volunteering their time for such organizations as local rescue squads, Special Olympics, Boy Scouts, 4-H, the Salvation Army, and local churches.

Our young West Virginians and their counterparts from across the country, by striving for these Congressional Awards, have expanded the boundaries of their own achievements, and, in doing so, have added to their potential as American citizens.

Our hats are off to West Virginia's five Congressional Award winners, and to all our young people who have the determination and will to set goals for themselves and to work to achieve those goals.

April 10, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Colombian Coal: A New Challenge to West Virginia

West Virginia's coal industry has been challenged in recent years by the decline of the U.S. coal export market and by the threat of acid rain legislation, which would devastate coalfields in the northern part of the state.

Now, another challenge to West Virginia's coal industry has emerged in the form of stepped-up coal production in Colombia, South America.

This latest threat comes from the opening of a new surface mine in Colombia -- one of the largest surface mining operations in the world with estimated reserves of 1.6 billion tons and the capacity to produce 15 million tons of high quality, low sulphur steam coal a year.

Currently, the total output of this mine is aimed at the export market, which places it in head-to-head competition with U.S. -- and West Virginia -- coal.

Colombia is in a position to become a major coal competitor in both the export market and the U.S. domestic market. As such, it poses a direct threat to the economy of coal-rich states throughout the central Appalachian region.

This is of particular

concern to me because the economic implications of this situation will be felt most directly in West Virginia, where unemployment in the coal industry stands at more than 30 percent.

To the extent that Colombian coal joins the fierce competition for the international coal market, and to the degree that coal produced in Colombia is used in the United States in place of domestic coal -- a situation that already is occurring -- the economy of coal producing states like West Virginia will suffer.

Because of the many questions surrounding the economic implications of Colombian coal imports on U.S. coal markets, I have requested that a U.S. Senate energy subcommittee examine this issue in a formal hearing.

It is essential that we establish the facts of this matter, determine a national strategy to assure that our best interests are protected, and pursue that strategy vigorously.

West Virginia's coal industry is vital to America -- we cannot afford to ignore the present challenges to its viability, including those posed by coal production in Colombia.

April 17, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Social Security: An American Priority

I recently received a poignant letter from one of my constituents in West Virginia on the subject of Social Security.

"We depend on this so much," the writer said. "When my husband retired (he's also ill) we never dreamed we'd live in such fear. Our children are in no position to help us; with the steel mills not working, they are having many problems with their young families. Please help."

That letter -- one of many pleas for help that I have received from elderly West Virginians -- illustrates clearly why I am opposed to a so-called "freeze" on Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs.

Social Security is a bedrock of support for many elderly Americans. I hear every day from West Virginians who are worried and confused over what is happening to their Social Security benefits.

These people have reason to be concerned. Despite continuous promises from the President that he would never reduce Social Security benefits to current recipients, he has joined with Senate Republicans in proposing a budget that would do just that.

Under the Administration-backed proposal, hundreds of thousands of elderly Americans could

fall into poverty. These people cannot afford to be abandoned by their government, and I for one am willing to use every means available to block efforts like this to reduce Social Security COLAs.

Many elderly Americans, such as the West Virginia woman whose letter I quoted above, take pains to point out that they need Social Security because their children cannot afford to support them.

In fact, many working Americans, through their own Social Security payments, are contributing to the support of their parents.

This is part of what makes the Social Security system work. With proper management, guided by proper priorities, we can honor our promises to the elderly Americans who depend on Social Security.

As another West Virginian wrote, "Extravagant projects could wait, but old folks haven't the time to wait for food and medical care."

Many elderly Americans share that opinion. Social Security is a priority with them, as it is with the family members who cannot afford to support them. Social Security is also a priority with me, and it is a program I will continue to fight to protect.

April 24, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Competitiveness: The Key to America's Future

Recently, I took a group of Senate Democrats to Shepherdstown, West Virginia, for a conference on the problems and challenges that face our nation as we move toward the 21st century.

What came out of that weekend session with experts in the economy, defense, and international affairs was a realization that the United States must take bold action if it is to regain its competitive edge in the world marketplace.

Unless we begin to take a hard look at some of the structural changes that have taken place in our economy, unless we are ready to re-examine the way in which we educate our children, and unless we take steps to ensure that our basic industries are not displaced by the fast growing service sector of the economy, we will continue to lose ground in the battle for a share of the global market.

The United States must start now to prepare for the future. One of the first steps that needs to be taken is to rein in this country's out-of-control trade deficit. We need to stop exporting our jobs overseas, where lower labor costs, government subsidies and tariff barriers combine to provide unfair competition for American-made goods. And, perhaps most impor-

tant, we must prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow.

America's educational policies do not, on the whole, emphasize mathematics, science, and technology. Our children attend school fewer days than do the children of other nations, and our schools have not come up with a formula to produce excellence in education.

We have to learn to think globally. Johnny is not just in competition with Billy and Susie for the jobs of the future. Johnny is also in competition with Nicolai and Yuri and Hans and Kim Soo for those jobs.

Maintaining our technological edge is an important key to the future. And we will not be able to maintain that edge unless we begin now to chart a new course for our country.

A fundamental conclusion that emerged from the Shepherdstown conference was that regaining America's competitive edge should be a national priority.

If this country is united in purpose, it will be a force to be reckoned with on the global market. It will take a strong sense of national purpose to reach that goal, but there is no better time to begin than today.

May 1, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginians In Space

Since the first historic, 15-second space flight of astronaut Alan Shepard on May 5, 1961, outer space -- the so-called "Last Frontier" -- has seen many American visitors.

In those years, American astronauts have landed on the moon, walked in space, rendezvoused with other craft high above the earth's orbit, and, most recently, returned from space in the country's first reusable space vehicle -- the Space Shuttle.

The space shuttle program offers our country a cost-effective way to carry out space exploration, and has contributed greatly to our knowledge of the world that lies beyond the earth's atmosphere.

America's space program is proof positive that when our country sets out to meet a goal, the goal can be met.

And West Virginians can take particular pride in the unique role our state has played in helping to create our country's space history.

West Virginian Chuck Yeager was the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound. Beckley's Jon McBride was one of seven astronauts aboard the October 1984 flight of the

space shuttle Challenger.

And now, two West Virginia teachers -- Melanie Vickers of St. Albans Junior High School, Kanawha County, and Nancy Wenger of Vandevender Junior High School, Wood County -- are among 100 teachers nationwide who will have a chance to travel as part of the January 1986 space shuttle mission.

In June, Vickers and Wenger, and two nominees from each of the other 49 states will be in Washington to participate in a space education workshop and to meet with a national review panel. By September, one finalist will be selected to become the first teacher in space.

I am pleased that NASA has decided that the first private citizen in space will be a teacher, and I wish our two West Virginia finalists the best as they compete to become part of the historic January 1986 space mission.

Our country's space program is a source of genuine pride for all Americans, and West Virginians have made important contributions in making that space program a success.

May 8, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Budget: A Blueprint for the Future

A nation's budget is more than just a bookkeeper's balance sheet. It is also a blueprint for the future.

That is why, during the recent Senate debate on the federal budget, I offered a budget alternative to the White House-backed package. My budget was designed to look to the future by emphasizing economic growth and competitiveness, and fairness and equity.

For example, my plan:

- restored full funding for federal cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), including Social Security; Black Lung benefits; veterans pensions, disability, and health care programs, civilian and military retirement;

- restored funding for education; for scientific and medical research; for job training, including Job Corps, and for export promotion;

- restored funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission, Amtrak, Economic Development Administration; Urban Development Action Grants, mass transit, and urban infrastructure programs;

- restored funding for Medicare, and eliminated out-of-pocket cost increases in premiums for Medicare recipients that the Administration was seeking; and

- reduced foreign aid, except to Egypt, Israel, Greece, and Turkey.

To enhance our national security in light of the constant Soviet military buildup, while at the same time refusing to condone Pentagon waste, my proposal placed a 1-percent ceiling on real growth in fiscal 1986 and 3 percent for the next two years.

The programs that I focused on in my budget are important -- not just to West Virginians but also to millions of people throughout America. These programs are the building blocks of our future.

My budget plan would have reduced the deficit over the next three years by \$303 billion -- an \$8 billion deeper cut than the Administration plan, which called for \$295 billion in deficit reductions.

My proposal was voted down, largely along party lines, and the White House budget passed by the barest of margins, on a 50 to 49 vote. But I think my package made an important point -- that the federal deficit can be reduced without balancing the budget on the backs of our elderly, our children, or our future.

The focus of the budget debate now moves to the House of Representatives; undoubtedly there will be differences between the House and the Senate that will have to be resolved. I hope, when that time comes, that concern for the future will prevail.

May 15, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

“Software Valley, West Virginia”

West Virginia has countless attributes to attract business and industry -- a willing and able labor supply; plentiful natural resources; a growing state infrastructure; spectacular scenery; a good living environment.

But if West Virginia is going to prosper in the years ahead, we must take full advantage of the potential that our state has to offer, with an eye to bringing new industries and new jobs to West Virginia.

That is why I am excited about the possibilities that exist for West Virginia in the growing field of computers and computer software.

On July 1, I will host a computer/software seminar in Morgantown -- entitled “Software Valley, West Virginia” -- to examine the possibilities of forming new West Virginia-based computer companies and attracting existing software-oriented companies into West Virginia.

I am encouraged about the potential for the development of a thriving

West Virginia computer software industry, especially in light of the U.S. Defense Department's recent proposal to establish a Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

West Virginia University will be affiliated with that institute, which is expected to attract software development companies to the Western Pennsylvania/Northern West Virginia area.

The West Virginia chapter of the American Defense Preparedness Association, which I helped form recently in an effort to increase West Virginia's share of defense contracts, will co-host the computer symposium with me, along with WVU's Small Business Development Center.

Our objective in having the “Software Valley, West Virginia” symposium is to create new jobs for West Virginia, and I hope that many interested West Virginians will attend the symposium and get in on the ground floor of a blossoming industry.

May 22, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: A Good Choice for "Saturn"

Over the past several months, General Motors Corporation has been scouring the country -- including a look at West Virginia -- in search of a site for its new Saturn automobile manufacturing plant.

I believe that our state would be an ideal location for the Saturn plant, and I recently arranged for the West Virginia congressional delegation to meet in my office with Roger Smith, the chairman of General Motors, in an effort to impress upon him our interest in this facility.

The concept of the Saturn venture, which is to feature advanced computer and robotics technology, will be high-tech at its best, and I believe West Virginia would be uniquely suited to showcase this new manufacturing concept.

West Virginia has the resources needed for the manufacture of automobiles. We have coal, glass, steel, aluminum, and chemicals. We have abundant energy and transportation resources, and we

have a skilled and dedicated labor force.

In addition, West Virginia is centrally located, and it has a strong research and development community backed by numerous universities and vocational educational facilities.

The Saturn plant would create 6,000 direct jobs and 14,000 or more associated jobs, which would be a great asset to West Virginia. In addition, this state-of-the-art type of facility could lead the way in bringing other high-tech industries into our state.

In short, West Virginia would be a good site for the General Motors Saturn plant, and the Saturn plant would be a good shot in the arm for West Virginia.

General Motors has not made a decision yet on where it will locate the Saturn plant. I hope GMC keeps West Virginia in the running -- our state is a strong candidate, and we would welcome the opportunity to be part of this new venture.

May 29, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering Vietnam

Not long ago, America observed the 10th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

It was an anniversary that brought back many painful memories for our country, but it also offered an opportunity for healing some of the scars left by the longest conflict this nation has been involved in since gaining its independence.

Some 3.4 million Americans served in the Vietnam war -- many of them from West Virginia. More than 57,000 Americans lost their lives, 300,000 were wounded, and 2,400 Americans are still listed as missing-in-action in Southeast Asia.

For too long, America tried to forget the Vietnam war. Only recently has our nation started coming to grips with the legacy of this war; only recently have we taken steps to recognize the patriotism and sacrifices of the men and women who served in Vietnam.

In an effort to pay tribute to the veterans who served in this conflict, I authored a resolution designating May 7, 1985 -- the 10th anniversary of the official end of America's involvement in Vietnam -- as "Vietnam Veterans

Recognition Day."

I am pleased that this resolution was passed by Congress, and that May 7 was chosen as the date for a massive ticker-tape parade in New York City to give Vietnam veterans a long overdue welcome home.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, where I placed a spray of flowers in observance of Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, is another example of America's acceptance, recognition, and honor of Vietnam veterans.

West Virginia is one of the most patriotic states in the nation. This fact is nowhere more evident than in the statistics of the Vietnam war, where West Virginia ranked second in the number of participants as a percentage of the male population.

America owes its veterans from all wars a debt of gratitude, but official recognition of Vietnam veterans is certainly long past due. I am pleased that I was successful in having one day set aside to honor the patriotism of Vietnam veterans and to salute the memory of those who did not return.

June 5, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ferroalloys: The Case for Preserving A Vital Industry

"Ferroalloys" is hardly a household word, and yet few of us could imagine living without the products made possible by this group of metals.

The result of combining iron with other minerals, ferroalloys are found in a host of common household items -- aluminum pots and pans, stainless steel kitchenware, metal appliances -- just about everything, including the kitchen sink.

But ferroalloys also have larger applications. They are important to the operation of oil wells, refineries, hospitals, airplanes, food processing facilities, and power plants to name a few categories.

Without ferroalloys, we could not produce state-of-the-art ships, tanks, missiles, guns, ammunition, or the myriad of other items essential to our national security.

Unfortunately, America's ferroalloy industry -- which includes three plants in West Virginia -- has come upon hard times. Unfairly subsidized foreign imports have eroded the U.S. domestic market and consequently have injured the domestic ferroalloy industry to the point that capacity and employment today are at about half of the 1979 levels.

In West Virginia, Elkem Metals in Fayette County, Foote Minerals in Mason County, and Chemetals in Preston County are all operating at well below capacity. Nationwide, capacity has dwindled from 29 to about 15 plants, and employment has dropped to about 4,000.

In an effort to increase awareness of the importance of ferroalloys, I recently introduced an amendment in the U.S. Senate requiring the Department of Defense to determine what effect the loss of the U.S. ferroalloy industry would have on national security.

The Senate adopted my amendment by a resounding 95 to 0 vote, which I hope will send a clear signal to the Administration that the U.S. ferroalloy industry needs import protection for national security reasons.

There's an old saying that goes, "For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; and for want of a horse the rider was lost." There is a message in that adage that relates to ferroalloys; I hope the Administration heeds the warning signals and takes action soon to protect our vitally important domestic ferroalloy industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Espionage: An Unforgivable Crime

The news that several members of a U.S. Navy family have been charged with selling military secrets to the Soviet Union has shocked our nation, and new details in the case that emerge almost daily have caused many top officials to fear that our country's security has been seriously compromised.

In fact, over the past decade nearly 40 Americans have been charged with espionage -- jeopardizing our national interests and calling into question the way our country handles those who betray us.

Espionage -- treason against our country -- is an unforgivable crime that merits the ultimate punishment.

That is why I was pleased when the Senate recently adopted my amendment requiring a mandatory sentence of life in prison for individuals found guilty of espionage for the Soviet Union or any other communist country. My amendment rules out any possibility of parole for

convicted spies.

Our country has the responsibility to take the strongest possible measures against those who would sell our military secrets to the communists. Before a person takes that step, he or she must know that the punishment will be swift and irrevocable.

Personally, I would prefer to see convicted spies face the death penalty, but our Supreme Court has ruled it unconstitutional to mandate capital punishment for any crime.

That being the case, I believe that those who are convicted of spying against our country should know -- at the very least -- that they will spend the rest of their lives behind bars, with no possibility of ever again enjoying the freedoms that our country has to offer.

As the latest sad tale of treason against our country unravels, my conviction is strengthened that no punishment is too severe for those who would sell out America for a few pieces of silver.

June 19, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S./Soviet Trade: Proceed With Caution

Our record trade deficit -- which could top \$150 billion this year -- has been a contributing factor to much economic misery in our country, with West Virginia bearing a large share of the suffering.

Lingering, double-digit joblessness, and record business bankruptcies and mortgage foreclosures in our state are the sad legacy of our continuing trade imbalance with our foreign trading partners.

I have joined many of my congressional colleagues in supporting measures aimed at increasing our country's share of the world market. In doing that, however, we have been careful not to jeopardize America's economic interests or security.

That is why I am concerned about recent actions on the part of Administration officials to expand trade with the Soviet Union.

For the first time since the Soviets invaded neighboring Afghanistan, one of our top government officials -- Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige -- has met with Soviet leaders to talk about trade between our two countries.

Before we launch into

a full-scale effort to do more business with the Soviets, we must make certain that we are acting in our own best national interests and not unwittingly aiding the Soviets.

Any trade discussions we might hold with the Soviets must be predicated on the understanding that the Soviet agenda is dominated by the need to expand its war machine.

I am particularly concerned about our high-technology goods, which are far superior to the technology of the Soviet Union and which are an important key to our country's military muscle.

Congress has put the Administration on notice that before it considers any changes in the economic relationship between our country and the Soviets, we in Congress will expect close consultation on the matter.

My efforts to erase our deepening trade debt will continue, but I will not support policies that buy increased trade with the Soviet Union at the price of our own national security.

In dealing with the Soviets, America must proceed with caution.

June 26, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Social Security: Defending a Vital Program

The Senate recently commemorated the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Social Security Act, and it was a time for many of us to redouble our efforts to defend and preserve a system that has meant a better life for millions of Americans.

Many West Virginians can remember -- as I do -- the days before Social Security, when retired or disabled Americans did not have the security of a federal pension program.

Among my earliest memories, growing up in Raleigh County, was passing the county poor farm, where old folks went when they could no longer provide for themselves.

Over the past 50 years, the Social Security system has undergone many changes and improvements, and the result is a program that has meant the difference between a life of dignity and one of destitution for many of our older citizens.

Unfortunately, the Social Security system -- which is finally on a firm financial footing -- has become a target for many in the Administration as they eye areas in the federal budget to cut in order to bring our burgeoning deficits under control.

To those who would weaken the Social Security system for momentary po-

litical gain, our message is loud and clear: We will fight to preserve the benefits upon which millions of Americans depend.

Just recently, the Senate passed the fiscal 1986 budget, which I voted against -- in part because it cut certain Social Security benefits. I will continue to press for a budget that treats Social Security fairly, and that does not seek to balance the budget at the expense of deserving Social Security recipients.

I have also joined an effort, with a number of my Senate colleagues, to prevent the Social Security Administration from closing or consolidating local Social Security offices, including ten in West Virginia.

I have put the head of Social Security on notice that I will oppose the closure of any of West Virginia's local offices -- which are located in Elkins, Logan, Martinsburg, Montgomery, Morgantown, Petersburg, St. Albans, and Williamson -- or the downgrading of offices in Fairmont and Welch.

For 50 years, the Social Security system has been a bedrock for many Americans, and we must continue to be vigilant to protect this important program for current recipients and for future generations of Americans.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Black Lung Benefits: Battling the Backlog

More than 15 years ago, I cosponsored the legislation that created the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1969.

Over the years since this program was created, many thousands of West Virginia coal miners stricken with black lung have applied for, and received, benefits.

I know first-hand their need for help. I grew up in a coal miner's home in West Virginia, and I have memories from my youth that will never leave me -- memories of men gasping for air, and memories of the sorrow of their families, powerless to help.

I believe in the black lung benefits program, and I am determined to make sure that it is operating at maximum efficiency.

Currently, the system is badly bogged down, with a backlog of 21,000 claims and an average processing timetable of three years or more.

That backlog must be eliminated, and the processing of claims must be expedited. Accordingly, I am seeking enough funding from the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member, to eliminate the backlog in black lung cases and put the system on as expeditious a schedule as possible.

From discussions I have had in my office with Labor Secretary

William Brock, with representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, and with others involved in the black lung program, it appears that the solution to the backlog and to delays in processing claims is to hire more judges to speed up the workload.

Cost estimates for hiring enough judges to take care of the problem range up to \$5 million. I will certainly encourage the Labor Department to borrow personnel from other federal agencies whenever possible, but I am also planning to ask the Appropriations Committee for whatever amount is necessary to solve this problem once and for all.

In addition, I am forming a bipartisan U.S. Senate Black Lung Working Group of coal-state Senators to promote actions to accelerate the processing of black lung claims.

Without tackling the backlog of claims, the lag time in processing will only continue to grow at the expense of those who are least able to afford the delay -- the sick and the poor.

The men and women who work in West Virginia's coal mines deserve better treatment than they are now getting -- they deserve prompt consideration of their claims, and that is what I intend to see that they receive.

July 10, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toll-free Hotlines: Help for West Virginians

The federal government maintains a number of toll-free hotlines to assist people with federally related questions or problems.

West Virginians may find the following hotlines useful in dealing with the federal government.

Auto safety information and complaints.....	1-800-424-9393
(Transportation Department)	
Army employment information.....	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps employment information.....	1-800-423-2600
Navy employment information.....	1-800-327-6289
Retired Army pay.....	1-800-428-2290
Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Parents Anonymous (child abuse).....	1-800-421-0353
National runaway switchboard.....	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Pesticide Emergency Information.....	1-800-858-7378
Clearinghouse	
National Health Information.....	1-800-336-4797
Clearinghouse	
Federal Emergency Management Agency.....	1-800-638-6620
(Flood insurance information)	
Cancer Information (Department of.....	1-800-638-6694
Health and Human Services)	
Washington, D.C. Central Reservation Center.....	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the nation's capital)	

July 10, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striking Out Against Terrorism

Most of the hostages have returned home safely, but the recent hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in Lebanon remains a reminder that the United States and its citizens are not immune from worldwide terrorism.

The fact that one passenger on that flight, a young American Navy man, was brutally beaten and murdered and that seven other Americans are still held hostage in Lebanon is evidence enough that we cannot simply wish terrorism to go away. Our nation must redouble its efforts to combat terrorism, to obtain the freedom of the remaining hostages in Lebanon, and to bring to justice the murderers and the hijackers responsible for the seizure of Flight 847.

Although American leadership cannot eliminate the threat posed by international terrorism, the U.S. can help steer an international course of action to address this threat more aggressively.

As a starting point, I have asked the President to initiate an international convention directed at reaching agreements or treaties that would increase protection against terrorism for innocent citizens, foster cooperation

among nations to prevent terrorist acts, and ensure punishment for terrorists. Incentives can be established to encourage nations to move against terrorists, and sanctions should be imposed on nations that refuse to cooperate.

I have further asked the President to review all the international air transport agreements signed by the United States to determine whether any should be renegotiated to emphasize increased airport and in-flight security; I have requested that Congress be provided the identity of any nations where airports represent security risks to Americans, and what actions are being taken to increase security at these airports; and I have suggested that further improvements to U.S. intelligence activities be considered to target terrorism.

Terrorism possesses no one nationality, and no nation is safe from this threat.

The past several weeks have been filled with talk about how we should fight terrorism. It is time now to undertake the leadership role expected from the United States in forging a worldwide movement to combat terrorism before it strikes our citizens again.

July 17, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Line Item Veto: A Blueprint for Disaster

One of the first lessons that is taught in any American civics class is that the United States has three equal branches of government: the Executive Branch, led by the President; the Judicial Branch, headed by the Supreme Court; and the Legislative Branch -- the Congress -- consisting of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Those three branches are the heart of the checks-and-balances that give the United States its unique system of government.

Today, our system of checks-and-balances is being challenged by some who would like to take some of the power of the purse away from the Congress -- which is the people's branch of government -- by giving the executive branch something called the "line item veto."

Under our current system -- a system that has served us well for more than 196 years -- when Congress passes a spending bill, the President has three choices: he can sign it, he can veto it, or he can refuse to sign it.

But if the President had the power of a line item veto, he would have another option: he could reshape a spending bill, crossing out every item he did not like.

The people of West Virginia have, by and large, supported programs such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Act, and scientific and medical research. As a Senator from West Virginia, I,

too, have supported these and other programs that benefit West Virginia.

But an Administration that did not support these programs could dismantle any of them with the stroke of a pen if a President were given the line item veto. West Virginians would have no voice in that decision.

What is particularly worrisome to me is that, in most instances, it would not be an elected President making these choices -- it would be an army of unelected, unknown, and unaccountable bureaucrats in the Office of Management and Budget.

What the line item veto really means is that after you, the people, have spoken through your elected representatives in Congress about how you want to spend your tax dollars, and after a spending blueprint reflecting your priorities has been written by Congress -- then a group of anonymous bureaucrats would be able to rewrite the whole package.

In any event, if the line item veto is to be given to a President, it should be done through a Constitutional amendment rather than by statute.

The line item veto is not a partisan issue. Regardless of which party is in the White House, the line item veto boils down to an issue of public versus closed-door decisions. I think that the process of spending the taxpayer's money should stay public and above the table if the public's interests are to be served.

July 24, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thoughts from the Leaders of Tomorrow

"The most important concern facing my personal future is having enough money to go to college and get a decent education and then being *able* to find a job here. I would like to stay in West Virginia, but if there are no jobs I will have to leave."

That comment -- from a Huntington high school senior -- typifies many of the nearly 12,000 responses I received from West Virginia students to a questionnaire I sent to the state's 199 public and parochial high schools early this spring.

More than two out of three students told me -- in response to my question on the greatest concern facing their personal future -- that they were concerned about finding a job following high school or college graduation. Many of the students added that they hoped that job would be in West Virginia.

I was impressed by the perceptive answers from the young West Virginians, and by the depth of their understanding of the important issues that face our state and nation.

For instance:

-- Thirty-one percent of the students said that negotiating an arms agreement with the Soviets was the greatest challenge facing our nation. Controlling federal budget deficits was second, chosen by 22 percent.

-- An overwhelming majority -- 69 percent -- view increasing job opportunities as the greatest challenge facing West Virginia, with attracting more business and industry a distant second, selected by 18 percent of the students.

-- To cut federal budget deficits, 57 percent of the students said that Congress should enact a program of tax increases and federal program cuts. Forty percent said that deficits should be tackled by simply cutting federal programs, while 3 percent opted for raising taxes.

-- The idea of spending more tax dollars to stop drug trafficking in the U.S. met with overwhelming approval (74 percent for, 26 percent opposed).

-- And finally, West Virginia students supported, by a 94-6 margin, stiffer penalties on those who drive under the influence of alcohol, though they turned thumbs down on the idea of instituting a national drinking age of 21 (44 percent for, 56 percent opposed) and the notion of raising the driving age to 18 (18 percent in favor, 82 percent against).

Our young people are the leaders of tomorrow. I am pleased that so many West Virginia students showed an interest in my questionnaire and took the time to share their thoughts with me.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Budget: Good News For West Virginia

West Virginians have much to be pleased about in the budget that recently passed Congress.

The most significant achievement of this budget, in my opinion, is that it reduces the deficit by approximately \$57 million next year without sacrificing certain programs that are vital to America's future and vital to the people of states such as West Virginia.

Social Security benefits were saved, as were pensions for veterans and retired federal workers.

Programs of special significance to West Virginia -- including the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, and the Urban Development Action Grant program -- were protected from earlier efforts by the Administration to eliminate them. (In fact, I was able to overcome strong Senate opposition to the ARC and add \$50 million to a related Senate bill for the ARC highway program.)

Needed funding for education and for scientific and medical research also was preserved in the budget, as was funding for Amtrak's passenger rail service.

The budget that Congress passed is not a perfect budget. But it is a major improvement over what the Administration initially proposed, and it is an important first step in our efforts to place the budget

deficit on a downward spiral.

I was especially pleased that Congress, after many months of grappling with the budget, came around to the kind of deficit reduction formula that I could support.

Several months ago, I introduced a budget proposal in the Senate -- which was defeated on mostly party lines -- that would have achieved even greater deficit reduction than the budget just passed, and it would have done so without endangering essential programs.

Instead of accepting my plan, the Senate Republican leadership pushed through a Senate budget that cut Social Security benefits, education and health research, and other programs important to West Virginia and Appalachia. The House of Representatives approved a budget that contained a far lower level of deficit reduction.

The compromise measure adopted by Congress, which was similar in many respects to the budget I proposed, is a blend of the tough deficit reduction stand of the Senate and the fair-mindedness of the House budget.

This budget is proof that the deficit can be reduced without hurting programs that are essential investments in the future of America and in the future of her people, including West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Arms Control: A Global Challenge

Arms control is an issue that many West Virginians -- especially young people -- have told me they are concerned about.

In a recent survey of West Virginia high school students that I conducted, negotiating an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union was the item mentioned most frequently as the greatest challenge facing our nation.

In fact, the nuclear arms race was the foremost concern cited by nearly a third of all students who responded to my survey.

I share that concern of my fellow West Virginians, and I, too, believe that negotiating a workable, enforceable arms control agreement with the Soviet Union should be a priority for the United States. Mutual and verifiable arms control is an item that requires cooperation and understanding between both nations.

Because of my longstanding interest in promoting an arms control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, I am pleased that I have been able to arrange a meeting with the new leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, in Moscow in September.

I am leading a bipartisan Senate delegation to conduct these talks with Mr. Gorbachev and other high-level Soviet officials in hopes of paving the way for the upcoming summit conference between President Reagan and Mr. Gor-

bachev.

I have offered my services as an emissary of the President, and he has been enthusiastic in his support of my efforts. I met recently at the White House with President Reagan, and he has given me a letter to deliver to Mr. Gorbachev.

This visit to Moscow is not the first such mission I have undertaken. As Senate Majority Leader, I traveled extensively as an emissary of former President Carter, meeting with such world leaders as the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the Shah of Iran, and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

Hopefully, my experience will serve me well in this trip to the Soviet Union, and I will be able to promote an atmosphere of better understanding between the world's two superpowers on the crucial issues -- including arms control, human rights, and economic and political relations -- that divide our nations.

I think West Virginia's young people should be able to look to the future with confidence and optimism. An arms control agreement cannot be reached overnight, but progress can be made, and I hope my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev will help move that process forward.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sharing West Virginia's Secrets

West Virginia has all the attributes to make it the ideal location for new business and industry.

The state has a willing and able workforce, a strategic location, newly inaugurated state tax incentives, and an emerging network of community services, recreation areas, industrial parks, and public facilities, all of which contribute to West Virginia's growing attraction as an area for business and economic development.

Unfortunately, West Virginia's climate for corporate expansion seems to be one of the country's best-kept secrets.

Next month in Washington, I will be holding a seminar for some of the nation's largest corporations to acquaint them with what West Virginia has to offer.

I have asked representatives from more than one hundred large corporations to attend the seminar -- entitled "West Virginia Facilities Development Day" -- which I will host on September 9 in the Russell Senate Office Building.

Some of West Virginia's top elected officials and business leaders -- including Gov. Arch Moore, State Chamber of Commerce President John Hurd, and Russell Isaacs, head of the West Virginia Business Roundtable -- have agreed to join me to talk with the corporate officials about West Virginia's many attributes.

In addition, the corporate representatives will see a slide presentation of available West Virginia facilities, as well as some of the state's industrial park sites.

Through "West Virginia Facilities Development Day," we hope to make a convincing case to some of the nation's top businesses that West Virginia is a good place for corporate location and expansion.

New business and industry in our state could brighten West Virginia's economic future. It is time that we share West Virginia's "secrets" with Corporate America.

August 21, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering West Virginia's Missing In Action

For growing numbers of young Americans, the Vietnam War is a chapter in America's past -- a history lesson to be learned in a classroom, along with the Korean conflict, World War II, and a host of other battles fought on foreign shores.

For these young people, Vietnam is fading into a hazy memory.

But for millions of other Americans -- those who served there, those who lost loved ones there, or those whose loved ones are still "missing in action" -- Vietnam remains a part of their everyday lives.

Especially for those whose loved ones have not been accounted for, Vietnam is an unfinished chapter.

To date, more than a decade after the end of the Vietnam War, the fate of 25 West Virginia servicemen remains unknown. They are among 2,400 Americans still listed as missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

The families of those missing servicemen have shown a remarkable strength of spirit in their efforts to obtain information and keep alive the memories of their loved ones.

Recently, I was privileged to participate in

a ceremony, held in Huntington, at which I presented Congressional POW/MIA medals to the families of nearly all of the missing West Virginia servicemen.

Many of the families traveled long distances to attend this ceremony in honor of their missing sons, fathers, and brothers.

As author of the legislation that created the bronze POW/MIA medal, I was honored to lead this ceremony and to present individual medals designed to salute the spirit and fortitude of the families of the missing.

These family members know that their relatives are not forgotten. Accounting for the Americans missing in Southeast Asia remains at the top of this country's list of unfinished business.

The POW/MIA medal is inscribed with the words, "You are not forgotten." As America's attention is drawn to new crises and new challenges, and as the Vietnam War becomes a part of history to more and more Americans, it is important to remember the missing and to redouble our efforts to end the uncertainty in which their families have lived for so many years.

August 28, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Joblessness: Top West Virginia Concern

When I asked West Virginians in a recent state-wide survey what they saw as the biggest problem facing West Virginia, the overwhelming majority told me that joblessness topped the list.

In addition to unemployment, 26.5 percent of the West Virginia respondents said that industrial decline was West Virginia's greatest challenge.

Nearly 30,000 West Virginians answered my questionnaire, and I was gratified that so many people were interested in sharing their views with me.

Many of the West Virginians who responded also took the time to explain their answers to me, and to tell me about issues of particular interest or concern to them.

For instance:

--- On national issues, 52 percent of the respondents singled out budget deficits as the country's major problem, with the trade deficit mentioned by 29 percent.

--- When given choices on how to cut federal spending, 48 percent of the West Virginians said they would reduce foreign aid. Pentagon spending was also a popular area to cut, mentioned by 41 percent.

--- Asked what federal programs they did *not*

wish to see cut, 58 percent said they were opposed to cutting Social Security, and 30 percent said they were against reducing funds for education programs.

--- Eighty-seven percent of the West Virginians polled said they supported federal income tax simplification.

I was particularly interested in the responses to a question I raised on how West Virginians would bring budget deficits under control.

When asked to choose between cutting certain programs or raising taxes to pay for those programs, more than 60 percent of the West Virginians polled said they favored raising taxes instead of cutting Social Security.

Nearly 66 percent said that Pentagon spending should be cut before tax increases were considered, and by a 60-40 percent margin, West Virginians said they would rather face tax increases than suffer cuts in education programs.

I appreciate the effort made by thousands of West Virginians in responding to my questionnaire, and the many comments I received have reinforced my own thoughts on the opinions and concerns of West Virginia.

September 4, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

ARC: A Needed Highway Program For West Virginia

Often, I hear from West Virginians who are concerned about the condition and status of the state's network of highways.

In recent years, the Administration has tightened the purse strings on federal highway funding throughout the country. West Virginia has been no exception, but in our state the need for new highways is more critical than in many other areas of the country.

That is why I have continued to fight for highway funding under the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Much good has been accomplished for West Virginia through the ARC highway program, but more work needs to be done.

For example, completion of the Corridor G highway between Charleston and Williamson on the Kentucky border is especially important. This new highway -- which is only feasible with ARC assistance -- will substantially reduce travel time, thereby enhancing commerce, in areas of southern West Virginia which have been hit by exceptionally high levels of unemployment.

We know from experience the impact that the Appalachian highway system has on local communities. According to a study completed several years ago, finished segments of the ARC highway network have helped to attract many new businesses to West Virginia, creating over 40,000 jobs in the process.

Failure to complete construc-

tion now underway would preclude the realization of such benefits for other areas of the state in the future.

Because ARC highways are so important to West Virginia, I offered an amendment to provide \$50 million in funding for the ARC highway program in legislation that recently passed the Senate.

Although this amendment is small in terms of highway building, it will help to continue the program which has been so helpful to West Virginia and the rest of Appalachia. Funding for the ARC has faced a great deal of opposition in the Senate this year, with the Administration having called for zero funding of ARC highway construction.

In addition to the \$50 million for ARC highways, the bill passed by the Senate provides \$31.3 million for ARC economic development programs.

The total amount of funding in this bill -- \$81.8 million for the ARC -- is still less than I want to see, and I will press for additional funding when the bill goes to conference committee with similar House legislation.

Since 1980, the ARC has been kept alive in Congress by those of us who recognized the many benefits that it has provided to the people of Appalachia. The need for the ARC remains critical, and my commitment to supporting it remains unshaken.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A West Virginia Perspective on Arms Control

Recently, I traveled to the Soviet Union to discuss arms control issues with the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Prior to my trip, I spoke with people throughout West Virginia about arms control and world peace. I carried their thoughts into my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

One young West Virginia mother told me, "I want my children and my grandchildren to grow up in a world of peace. I don't want them to know war."

And a group of West Virginia high school students expressed to me their uncertainty about their future -- and the future of the world -- because of the threat of nuclear weapons.

Arms control is one of the greatest challenges facing the United States and the Soviet Union, and it is perhaps the most important concern shared by the people of both nations.

That is why I felt it important to lead a bipartisan Senate delegation to the Soviet Union to meet with Mr. Gorbachev.

With the arms control talks in place in Geneva and the upcoming summit conference scheduled between President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev in November, the United States is in a position of historic opportunity. The events of the next few months could set the tone for U.S.-Soviet relations for years to come.

As the leader of the first Senate delegation to

meet with Mr. Gorbachev, my goal was to increase U.S.-Soviet understanding and to help pave the way for President Reagan's November summit. I also wanted to make clear to the Soviets the unique constitutional role of the United States Senate in the approval of treaties, and underscore the fact that the Senate will not approve any arms control treaty that is not in the best interests of the American people.

The fact that we were successful, and that Mr. Gorbachev used this opportunity to send clear signals to the White House that he is at least apparently willing to work with the United States, sets a positive tone for the upcoming summit.

The people of West Virginia have told me that world peace is an issue of great concern to them. It is to the mutual benefit of the United States and the Soviet Union, and of our people, to cooperate, to coexist, and to deal fairly with each other. The weapons of destruction that are in place remind us of that fact daily.

Perhaps the most important message that I conveyed to Mr. Gorbachev was a conviction I share with the people of West Virginia -- that although the United States and the Soviet Union compete philosophically and politically, we should do so with ideas, not arms.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Sharing a Part of West Virginia

Quality craftsmanship is a cherished part of West Virginia's heritage. We are justly proud of the hand-made patchwork quilts, wood carvings, hand-crafted toys and countless other handicrafts that reflect the skill and talent passed down from generation to generation of West Virginia artisans.

Because of the pride we all take in West Virginia, one of the highlights of my recent trip to the Soviet Union was my presentation of some traditional West Virginia crafts as gifts from the Senate delegation to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Mrs. Gorbachev, and other high-ranking Soviet officials.

I am grateful to the members of the West Virginia Artists' and Craftmen's Guild, who donated the crafts, and to the dozens of West Virginia artisans who spent long hours making them.

Through the efforts of many West Virginians, our Senate delegation was able to share with the Soviets many of our state's outstanding hand-made products, including:

---a handcrafted quilt from Cabin Creek Quilters (made available through the State Department of Culture and History);

---a handwoven wicker basket, Charlotte Henson, The Rocking Chair, Hurricane;

---a handwoven pillow, Janet Hamstead, The Warped Weavers, Charleston;

---a stained glass window, Denny Hight, Denny's Stained Glass Studio, St. Albans;

---a wheat weaving design, Jane Rutledge, Wheat Weaving, Beckley;

---lithographs of West Virginia sternwheelers, William D. Goebel, Charleston;

---patchwork quilt design silk screens, Katy and David Fidler, Harpers Ferry;

---a pottery bowl, Ren and Pam Parziale, Sycamore Pottery, Kearneysville;

---a walnut and oak hoop-handled basket, David and Karen Barrett, Barretts Bottoms Chairmakers, Kearneysville;

---handcrafted folk toys, Dick Schnacke, Mountain Craft Shop, New Martinsville;

---an inlaid brass desk set, pen set, stamp box, and bud vase, David and Suzanne Gibson, Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs;

---a silk-screened West Virginia scene, Richard and Vivian Pranulis, Wolf Creek Printery, Alderson; and

---"Mountain Measures" West Virginia cookbook, Junior League of Charleston.

I was proud to share a part of West Virginia with the people of the Soviet Union, and the West Virginia artists who donated their crafts can take pride in knowing that our state's rich heritage was well-represented in their work.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ending the Abuses

Tales of large defense contractors charging exorbitant prices for everyday items -- hundreds of dollars for hammers and tape measures that you and I could buy for less than \$10 -- have moved lawmakers to endorse my approach to putting an end to such abuses.

Not long ago, the Senate approved an amendment I offered which allows a \$1 million fine on defense contractors who set out to bilk the Pentagon.

Further, the Senate agreed with my proposal to give Defense Department auditors greater power to obtain the records of contractors to determine if costs billed to the federal government are justified.

Prior to the Senate's action on my amendments, contractors faced only a \$10,000 fine if convicted of knowingly defrauding the government. To a multimillion dollar company, a \$10,000 fine is barely a dent in the corporate wallet.

By raising the fine to a maximum of \$1 million, we in the Senate hope to

convince the country's defense contractors that the practice of overcharging the American taxpayers will no longer be tolerated.

This is not to suggest that every incident of overcharging the federal government is done knowingly and willfully or that every contractor is out to swindle the federal government. To be certain, the defense procurement process is complex and often difficult to understand.

For that reason, we have added a safeguard in the law that provides for judicial discretion to determine if a contractor cheated the government or merely made an honest error.

American taxpayers and their representatives in Congress have the right to expect the most from their defense dollars. When contractors deliberately overcharge the Defense Department, they are not only cheating the taxpayers, but they are also damaging the country's defense effort.

The days of hundred dollar bolts, forty dollar light bulbs, and hammers worth their weight in gold must come to an end.

October 2, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stepping Up West Virginia's Military Activities

West Virginians are among the most patriotic Americans, so it is only fitting that our state should play a meaningful role in the national defense effort.

Recently, I have held a series of meetings with Defense Department officials -- including the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force -- in an effort to encourage expanded military involvement in West Virginia.

As a result of these meetings, West Virginia is beginning to receive increased attention from the Defense Department. Currently, more than \$90 million worth of military construction projects -- including a proposal to build a \$9.5 million active duty training facility in Preston County -- are either underway or being proposed for West Virginia.

The proposed Army training facility has been suggested for the Camp Dawson National Guard facility in Preston County. The Army, which already has signaled its intention to proceed with design work on this proposal, has estimated that if the project receives final approval and proceeds on schedule, construction could begin as early as next fall.

Also being proposed for Camp Dawson are 18 construction projects estimated to cost a total of \$7 million. In addition, the National Guard's long-range plans include a \$23.7 million expansion project at Camp Dawson designed to turn the facility into a

major training area.

Other military projects already underway or budgeted for construction in West Virginia include: Charleston Armed Forces Reserve Center, \$7 million; Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Moundsville, \$2.9 million; Sugar Grove Navy Communications Center additions and associated improvements, \$8.2 million; Martinsburg Air Guard training facility, building alterations, and aircraft parking apron, \$4.8 million; and firefighting systems at Martinsburg and Charleston Air Guard bases, \$2.2 million.

Other military projects proposed for West Virginia include: building alterations at the Buckhannon and the Point Pleasant National Guard Armories, \$0.8 million; Charleston Air Guard aircraft holding pad, \$1 million; six construction projects for the Martinsburg Air Guard, \$10 million; Army Reserve centers at Ripley, New Martinsville, Parkersburg, Rainelle, and Kingwood, \$6.5 million; helicopter detachment for the Wheeling National Guard unit, \$2.8 million; Army aviation support facility for the Parkersburg National Guard, \$2.7 million; and Wheeling National Guard Armory, \$1.6 million.

West Virginia has a great deal to offer the Defense Department in terms of land, people, and other resources. I intend to continue urging the military to increase its presence in West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Too Little, Too Late?

After almost five years of silence on our country's deepening trade deficits, the President recently endorsed a series of measures aimed at strengthening America's trade posture in the world market.

For those of us who have been working to stop the unfair practices of some of our foreign trading partners -- practices that have seen American jobs go to overseas workers and caused American industries to struggle to compete -- the Administration's entrance into the battle for fair trade, while belated, is welcome.

However, I am afraid that the Administration might be offering too little, too late.

This year, the United States will accumulate a trade deficit estimated at \$150 billion.

That means that we will buy \$150 billion more in foreign goods than we sell to other countries. And it means that we have a trade crisis on our hands.

West Virginians know that firsthand.

Our steel, ferroalloy, and footwear industries have been hard-hit by underpriced foreign imports. Many of our industries have been forced to cut back on production, and, as a result, thousands of West Virginians have lost their jobs.

The Administration has endorsed a number of proposals already offered in Congress to help alleviate our trade crisis -- bring-

ing down the overvalued dollar, opening U.S. markets in foreign countries such as Japan, Brazil, and Korea, speeding up trade dispute resolutions, and protecting American high-technology equipment from foreign counterfeiting -- but it stopped short of endorsing or advancing the kind of comprehensive trade strategy we need.

Further, I am concerned that the Administration did not mention the connection between fair trade and our national security.

Healthy basic industries are the keystone to a strong national defense. When a country is forced to rely on outside sources for its steel, ferroalloys, and other defense-related products, it places itself in great jeopardy during times of national emergency.

That is why I recently introduced a bill in the Senate to expand the public and private sectors' ability to take action in cases where imports are threatening the country's defense effort. That would be especially helpful to the country's emerging high-tech industries and the ceramics industry.

My trade bill -- and a number of provisions already under consideration in Congress -- could help bolster our country's trade posture.

It is time for the Administration to join Congress and throw its full weight behind the effort for fair trade.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing the Budget: The Case for Responsible Action

Like most West Virginians, I believe the U.S. should be able to balance its books.

One way to achieve this is through an amendment to the Constitution mandating a balanced budget -- a proposal that I have voted for and continue to support.

More recently, in an effort to accelerate the march toward deficit reduction, I joined in proposing a balanced budget amendment to a debt ceiling bill.

I support these budget-balancing measures because they offer a workable mechanism to reduce the staggering budget deficits that have plagued this nation since 1981.

That is why I was disappointed when the Senate rejected the balanced budget proposal I authored with Sen. Lawton Chiles of Florida (the Chiles-Byrd amendment) in favor of a proposal offered by Senators Phil Gramm of Texas and Warren Rudman of New Hampshire (the Gramm-Rudman amendment).

I believe the Gramm-Rudman amendment puts a straightjacket on federal fiscal policy, preventing it from responding to changes in the economy, international situations, and national security requirements.

The Chiles-Byrd amendment, however, contained important safeguards to avoid handcuffing the federal government. In addition, my amendment would have started the deficit reduction process a year sooner and placed it on a faster track

than the Gramm-Rudman amendment.

One significant difference is that the Chiles-Byrd amendment would have automatically protected necessary spending for U.S. national security requirements during times of undeclared war. The Gramm-Rudman amendment suspends its budget constraints only during times of "declared" war.

This difference is crucial because, although the United States has been involved in a "declared" war only once in 40 years, there was no declaration of war in Korea or Vietnam, two of the heaviest and most costly conflicts.

Another escape hatch provided in the Chiles-Byrd amendment -- but not in the Gramm-Rudman proposal -- was designed to guard against excessive unemployment during an economic recession.

I believe that an unemployment provision is essential -- particularly to states like West Virginia, which have been battling high unemployment since 1981 -- because estimates have shown that unemployment under the balanced budget spending restrictions contained in the Gramm-Rudman proposal could rise dramatically during a recession.

The federal deficit needs to be eliminated -- it is an enormous drain on the economic vitality of the United States. But deficit reduction needs to be handled in a serious, effective, and responsible manner. Any other approach could cause far more harm than good.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hiring the Right Person for the Job

Most of us cannot conceive of getting a job without going through the process of a job interview, during which the employer or the personnel department can take a look at our background and qualifications and determine whether we are suited for such work.

That is what has been happening lately, however, as the current Administration has adopted a practice of making key appointments to important federal jobs during times when the Senate is in recess.

The Senate's duty of "advice and consent" with respect to Presidential appointments can be likened to that of a personnel department of a corporation.

As stated in our Constitution, the Senate has the responsibility of taking a look at, and passing upon, the qualifications and abilities of a President's nominee before that person is placed in a position of authority and influence in our government.

But when the President makes recess appointments -- during those times when the Senate is not in session and most Senators are working back in their home states -- the Senate does not have the chance to scrutinize and to confirm or deny these appointments, as our Constitution requires.

There are times when crucial appointments must be filled during a congressional recess, and such appointments are both necessary and proper.

However, this Administration has abused that authority by making more recess appointments than any Administration in recent memory, and by making appointments that are

sponsibility of the Senate.

During a recent congressional recess, for instance, the Administration made an appointment to the Federal Reserve Board -- a position that carries with it a 14-year term. Imagine giving a person a 14-year job commitment without ever expecting him or her to submit to a job interview!

When my letters to the White House, urging that recess appointments be kept to a minimum, failed to get the Administration's attention, I recently blocked the confirmation of all Presidential appointments -- except the most crucial nominations -- to send a clear message to the White House that its approach to recess appointments was not acceptable.

My action finally got the attention of the President, and his representatives were finally willing to sit down with me and listen to my objections to this Administration's handling of recess appointments.

During that meeting, Administration officials agreed to notify the Senate leadership -- prior to a congressional recess -- of any appointment it may wish to make during that recess. That way, the Senate will be able to look at these candidates in advance to ensure that they are appropriate for the job.

As the people's elected representatives, members of the Senate take their appointment confirmation duties seriously. Presidential appointees are in positions of great responsibility and influence.

High-ranking government appointees make decisions every day that affect millions of Americans, and we in the Senate want



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Populating West Virginia's "Software Valley"

West Virginia offers the potential to be a fertile breeding ground for high-technology businesses.

The overwhelming response I received when I hosted a computer software/high technology seminar in Morgantown this past summer -- more than 360 West Virginians attended -- reinforced my belief that our state would provide a perfect home for high-tech industries.

Especially promising for West Virginia would be the development of a "high-tech corridor" along Interstate 79 south of Pittsburgh into the north-central part of our state.

Pittsburgh is key to the development of West Virginia's computer industry because of the U.S. Defense Department's recent selection of that city's Carnegie-Mellon University as the site for its new Software Engineering Institute. That facility will devote its efforts to finding ways to adapt computer software developed by private companies for use by the Pentagon.

I hope that West Virginia will be able to take advantage of the closeness of the Software Engineering Institute by attracting companies that can work with the Institute on defense-related computer programs.

To that end, at my July software symposium, I had the pleasure of welcoming what I hope will be the first of many new high-tech companies to West Virginia. Nations, Inc., a New Jersey-based compu-

ter engineering firm, announced that it intended to open a branch operation in Morgantown, thus becoming the first resident of West Virginia's new "Software Valley."

That development, and the subsequent formation of the Software Valley Corporation -- a non-profit organization that will serve as an information clearinghouse for West Virginia companies interested in computer and high-technology work -- convinced me that we should move quickly to capitalize on the momentum generated by the first "Software Valley" symposium.

For that reason, I will host a second computer symposium, also in Morgantown, on November 25.

"Software Valley II" will feature officials from the Defense Department who will discuss the Pentagon's computer software programs and how West Virginia businesses might do more high-technology work with the DOD.

Representatives from the country's leading computer software firms will also be on hand to talk about their plans for expanding their operations into our state under the auspices of the Software Valley Corporation.

West Virginians interested in attending the symposium, which will be held from 9 am until 4 pm on Monday, November 25, at WVU's Mountainlair Little Theatre, can make reservations by contacting the Software Valley Corporation at 304-293-5839.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Fighting Back Against Terrorism

Last month, in the midst of rejoicing over the capture of the hijackers who seized an Italian cruise ship and brutally murdered an elderly, crippled U.S. citizen, America marked a tragic anniversary -- the October 23, 1983, bombing of the U.S. Marine compound in Beirut.

The Beirut bombing took the lives of 241 Marines -- including four from West Virginia -- in an act of terrorism that enraged and frustrated America.

Earlier this year, Americans again experienced outrage and frustration when the hijackers of a TWA jet held in Beirut escaped punishment for the murder of an American Navy diver who was a passenger aboard the aircraft.

So it is no wonder that the people of this country were elated when the President and the U.S. military orchestrated a bold and effective interception of the Egyptian aircraft carrying the terrorists who had hijacked the cruise ship Achille Lauro.

One important element that contributed to the success of this mission was the cooperation of Greece and Tunisia in refusing to allow the hijackers' aircraft to land.

This kind of united front against terrorism is what I have been urging for some time. Earlier this year, I asked the President to call for an international convention dealing with

terrorism, and I continue to believe that international cooperation -- whether through treaty or agreement -- remains an essential element in the worldwide effort to combat terrorism.

I also believe the U.S. must examine its ability to respond to terrorist actions, and take steps to increase its efficiency and coordination. The fact that everything came together this time is no guarantee that the U.S. will be as fortunate the next time terrorism strikes.

Despite America's success in dealing with the murderers and hijackers who seized the Achille Lauro, the United States should not forget the lessons learned from the bombing of the Marine barracks in Lebanon two years ago, or the frustration of trying to free the surviving passengers from the TWA jet hijacked to Lebanon earlier this year.

Terrorism continues to exist throughout the world. As we remember the individuals who have lost their lives in past terrorist attacks -- including Cpl. Mecot E. Camara of Hinton, Cpl. Russell M. Czick of Star City, Lance Cpl. David L. Cosner of Elkins, and Lance Cpl. Joseph Timothy Dunnigan of Princeton who were killed in the Marine barracks bombing --- our nation should resolve to redouble its efforts to stamp out terrorism.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Extending a Helping Hand

Thanksgiving is a holiday that gives Americans an opportunity to reflect on their blessings and to think about the things that are meaningful to them.

But for many West Virginians this Thanksgiving, a wall of water has washed away much of what gives life meaning.

In more than half of West Virginia's 55 counties, the floods of the first week of November have left thousands of West Virginians with little more than their lives. Thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed, and nearly 50 West Virginians are either dead or missing.

Never have I seen so much devastation resulting from a flood. In my trips to the state's worst-hit areas, I have seen homes reduced to rubble; businesses lying in ruins; and concrete bridges and railroad tracks snapped like kindling, leaving large gaps in the state's transportation network.

Not only have many West Virginians rallied around their friends and neighbors at this time of crisis, but officials on the local, state, and federal levels have also swung into action.

Community volunteers have set up temporary shelters and are providing meals, clothing, and other basic needs. State officials have set up a special fund to handle flood relief donations, and are working with federal officials on the relief effort.

On the federal level, I have pursued a number of options to speed federal assistance to West Virginia.

For example, I was successful in helping to convince the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency (FEMA) to exempt West Virginia from having to pay most of the required 25 percent share of any community recovery assistance from FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I met with Transportation Secretary Dole to gain her support for emergency road and bridge repair in the state -- an essential element for the rebuilding of our communities -- and I was able to gain Senate approval for an amendment I sponsored on behalf of myself and Sen. Rockefeller, Sens. Warner and Tribble of Virginia, and Sen. Johnston of Louisiana that increases from \$30 million to \$55 million the amount of bridge and road repair funds available to West Virginia from the Federal Highway Administration.

Also I am seeking an appropriation of \$25 million to begin stream and river bed work in the counties hit by flooding.

Finally, I have been working with Governor Moore, the West Virginia Congressional delegation, and the top officials of FEMA -- which is heading up the federal assistance effort in the state -- and with other federal agencies to speed up help for the flood victims.

Our fellow West Virginians need our help today, but more than that, they will need our help tomorrow as they struggle to put their lives back together.

The recovery from the disaster of the flood will be slow and laborious, but we can help our fellow West Virginians by supporting them in their time of need.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Revering Our Flag (Part I)

More than 208 years ago -- on June 14, 1777 -- Congress authorized the first American flag consisting of thirteen white stars on a field of blue and thirteen stripes, each representing the country's original 13 colonies.

Today, 27 changes later, our flag still flies over a land of opportunity and freedom -- and over a country for which thousands of brave Americans have given their lives to preserve our way of life.

West Virginians -- long known as among the most patriotic people in the country -- take a special interest in the flag, and often I am asked to outline the proper way to fly and care for it.

For the many West Virginians who have expressed an interest, the following are some basic guidelines for the care of and conduct around the American flag.

--- Generally, the flag is flown from sunrise until sunset on any day when the weather is good, especially on holidays. All-weather flags may be flown during inclement weather. At sunset, the flag should be lowered, though it can be flown 24 hours a day if it is properly illuminated.

--- The flag should be raised briskly to the peak of the flagpole, except during a time of mourning, when it is raised to the peak of the flagpole and then lowered to half-mast.

--- In caring for the flag, first fold it in fourths

lengthwise. Then fold it diagonally, ending with the stars outside.

--- A worn flag, no longer suitable for use, should be destroyed in a "dignified way," preferably by burning.

--- In pledging allegiance to our flag, women may leave hats on, but men should remove their hats. The pledge should be given with the right hand over the heart, standing at attention. Men in uniform should leave their hats on and salute the flag.

--- During the playing of our National Anthem, those present should stand at attention facing the flag, the right hand over the heart. Men should remove their hats, holding them with their right hand at their left shoulder, their hand over their heart. Men in uniform should leave their hats on and salute the flag.

--- When a flag is raised or lowered, or when it is passing in a parade, people should face the flag and stand at attention, right hand over their hearts. Those in uniform should salute the flag. A man not in uniform should remove his hat, holding it at his left shoulder with his hand over his heart.

--- When saluting a flag in a moving column, the salute should be rendered at the time the flag passes.

Next week, I will provide some guidelines for displaying the American flag.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Revering Our Flag (Part II)

Our American flag can be flown any day that the weather is good (and during inclement weather, if an all-weather flag is used), but we most often see Americans displaying their flags on our nation's patriotic holidays, such as Flag Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and the Fourth of July.

Our flag also plays a special role in many of our official functions and ceremonies, such as parades, sporting events, school and college activities, political rallies -- in fact, in most every meaningful American event, our flag is present to remind us of the beliefs and ideals upon which America was founded.

How many of us will ever forget, for instance, the thrill of seeing American Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin raise the American flag after landing on the moon in 1969?

In displaying the American flag here on earth, the following guidelines apply.

--- If the flag is hung flat on a wall, the stars are always on the top and to the observer's left.

--- When two flags appear on the same staff, the U.S. flag is always flown on top.

--- In a group of flags, the U.S. flag should be placed in the center or at the highest point.

--- In a row of flags, the U.S. flag appears on the observer's left and should be hoisted before the flags of other nations.

--- On a speaker's platform, the U.S. flag should appear above and behind the speaker, or on a staff to the speaker's right.

--- In an audience, the U.S. flag is found to the group's right.

--- In a procession with other flags, the U.S. flag is positioned to the marcher's right (observer's left) or appears at the front and center of a line of flags.

The U.S. flag should not be used as decoration. Instead, bunting should be used, with blue on the top, white in the middle, and red on the bottom.

I hope these guidelines will be helpful to West Virginians as they use and display our flag.

December 4, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Bhopal Disaster: One Year Later

One year ago this month -- December 3, 1984 -- a disastrous gas leak at a chemical plant in Bhopal, India, turned a worldwide spotlight on West Virginia's chemical industry.

The chemical involved was methyl isocyanate, or MIC, and Institute, West Virginia, was the only place other than Bhopal where MIC is manufactured.

The Bhopal tragedy claimed more than 2,000 lives. In the aftermath of that accident, the safety of the chemical industry in general, and especially in West Virginia, was called into question.

One of the most important results to emerge from the intense scrutiny that has been focused on the chemical industry during the past year is a greater awareness of the need for cooperation and coordination among government, industry, and the public.

On the federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have sharpened their oversight of the chemical industry.

At the local level, community groups, repre-

sentatives of the chemical industry, and government officials are working together to enhance public health and safety.

And in the private sector, the National Institute for Chemical Studies, headquartered in West Virginia, has been established to address the issues facing the future of the chemical industry.

The President recently signed into law a funding bill that includes \$250,000 I secured in the Senate Appropriations Committee for a comprehensive health study of chemical production in the Kanawha Valley.

This study, to be conducted jointly with the Harvard University School of Public Health, is an important step toward increasing our base of knowledge about the health effects of chemical production.

The Bhopal tragedy raised many questions that remain to be answered. But as our knowledge grows -- through such efforts as the study being undertaken by the National Institute for Chemical Studies -- the ability to protect both the health and the economic well-being of West Virginians can only be improved.

December 11, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rescuing an Ailing Industry

America's steel industry is in a crisis, and without quick and aggressive action, we risk losing one of the mainstays of the country's economy and one of the key components of our national defense.

Look at the decline in our domestic steel industry in just the last ten years.

In 1975, foreign imports accounted for about 13.5 percent of all steel used in the country. By 1985, foreign steel had captured 25 percent of America's domestic market.

The human factor behind those statistics is staggering: In the last ten years, steel industry employment has dropped by 46 percent -- or by a half-million jobs.

And in West Virginia, not only have thousands of steel jobs been lost to foreign steelworkers, but related industries also have suffered as a result.

For instance, demand for West Virginia's metallurgical coal -- crucial to steelmaking -- rises and falls with the steel industry, and recent years have seen production cuts and job losses in that industry.

The steel industry's woes have had a rippling effect on the economy, and they could have a disastrous effect on national security during a time of emergency.

Historians tell us that

America's industrial might -- especially our steel industry -- was a deciding factor in the outcomes of both World War I and II.

One lesson that those wars should have taught was that America cannot become addicted to foreign steel -- a vital material that might disappear in a time of national emergency.

The time has come for more drastic approaches to cut our dependence on foreign steel and to strengthen the American steel industry.

That is why I have been urging the Administration to act to stop the flow of cheap steel imports into our country. Last year, in response to my insistence and the calls of many of my colleagues, the Administration launched a program for lowering steel imports. Unfortunately, that program is not working.

For that reason, I recently asked the appropriate Senate and House Committees to hold hearings on the current crisis in our steel industry and on the shortcomings of the Administration's steel import policies.

In the meantime, I will continue pressing for measures that will pump new life into the American steel industry.

December 18, 1985



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Air Traffic Safety: A Troubling Year

The past year has been the worst in history in terms of safety for the airline industry, a fact that is troubling for the many Americans who must travel by air.

The most recent disaster -- the fatal crash in Canada of a chartered DC-8 aircraft carrying 248 U.S. soldiers home for the holidays -- is a particularly tragic accident.

I am sure that all West Virginians mourn with the families of those who were killed in this accident, especially the three West Virginians who were among the victims: Pfc. Mark Abrams of Rhodell, Raleigh County; Sgt. Kevin Gantzer of Wheeling; and Sgt. James A. Mollett of Kermit, Mingo County.

One aspect of this crash that greatly disturbs me involves the serious questions that have been raised regarding the safety of civilian aircraft and airlines that derive most of their business from transporting U.S. military personnel.

Our nation asks much from the men and women in our armed forces, who have never shirked from making sacrifices in the defense of the United States. The least our country can do in return is to assure our military personnel that they will be carried in safe aircraft in time of peace.

For this reason, I have called on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to initiate a special investigation of all civilian aircraft and airlines that rely on military transport contracts for their main source of

business. I believe our government should do all in its power to prevent such terrible accidents in the future.

Prior to the Canadian crash, I discussed my concerns over air traffic safety -- particularly commuter airline safety -- with U.S. Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole.

As I told Mrs. Dole, commuter airline safety is especially important to states such as West Virginia, which must depend heavily on commuter airlines for air transportation service.

In view of the fact that commuter airlines are the only source of air travel for many communities, I strongly believe that the FAA should do everything possible to ensure that commuter aircraft are carefully maintained, inspected, and equipped with state-of-the-art safety devices.

In an effort to make sure that air travel in West Virginia is as safe as possible, I also included provisions in the government funding bill recently passed by Congress preventing the FAA from closing any air traffic control towers in West Virginia and directing the agency to staff the control tower at Tri-State Airport in Huntington 24 hours a day.

Air travel remains a convenient, and often necessary, means of transportation for many West Virginians. The airline industry and the government both must do their best to ensure that air travel also remains a safe and reliable means of transportation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Highlights of 1985: Accomplishments for West Virginia

West Virginia stands to benefit from a number of actions that I initiated and that Congress approved in the past 12 months, including enactment of an emergency relief package to help the victims of the floods that hit the state in early November.

Following is a look back over some of the congressional highlights of 1985:

West Virginia flood relief: Immediately after the November floods, I worked with my Senate colleagues and with the heads of several federal agencies to channel federal relief to West Virginia flood victims. One of my first efforts, with Gov. Moore, was to obtain a waiver of nearly all of West Virginia's 25 percent share of federal assistance.

Also, Congress approved a package of flood relief measures that I had earlier secured in the Senate Appropriations Committee, including \$40 million for stream and farmland rehabilitation; \$10 million to speed up disaster loan processing; \$3 million to expand a flood warning system into 29 counties hit by the floods; funding for restoration work at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the C&O Canal, the Monongahela National Forest, and the Forestry Products Laboratory at Parsons; and a special waiver to help West Virginia college students qualify for education assistance under the Pell Grant program.

Finally, at my request, Congress raised from \$30 million to \$55 million the amount that West Virginia can receive for emergency road and bridge repairs.

West Virginia Cancer Center:

At my urging, Congress approved, and the President signed into law, a bill containing \$4.5 million to begin construction of the state's first regional cancer facility, the Mary Babb Randolph cancer center in Morgantown.

Black lung claim backlog:

One of my priorities this year was to work to erase the 21,000-case backlog of black lung claims. Following meetings in my office with Labor Secretary William Brock, that Department agreed to implement a plan to eliminate the backlog. Also, I gained congressional approval of funding to hire extra administrative law judges to speed black lung claim processing.

Economic development in

West Virginia: Continuing my efforts to bring new industry and jobs to the state, I held several seminars this year for the state's business community, including a defense trade fair, two computer software symposiums, and a special day to acquaint the nation's large corporations with West Virginia business opportunities.

Federal programs of benefit to

West Virginia: I joined my colleagues in the successful fight to save the Economic Development Administration, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Amtrak rail passenger service, all of which have been helpful in building a better West Virginia.

Congress took other actions this year that will have a positive bearing on our state, and I will be working to achieve similar results for West Virginia when Congress reconvenes in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Ahead to 1987: Issues Facing an Historic Congress

The recently convened 100th Congress will be an historic and memorable session as we mark not only the bicentennial of our country's Constitution, but also the 200th anniversary of the conception under our Constitution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Ceremonies for both events are planned, including a meeting of the House and Senate in the City of Philadelphia in July 1987, the first time that the Congress has met outside of Washington since the spring of 1800.

I hope the 100th Congress will also be remembered as the Congress that tackled -- and solved -- a number of crucial national and international problems.

The first of these is our country's position in international trade, which, over the past six years of the current Administration, has deteriorated to the point that our country has amassed an estimated \$170 billion trade deficit for 1986 **alone**.

That trade deficit has resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of American jobs, and it has seriously weakened many of the basic industries upon which our country has relied.

Clearly, developing a national policy that re-establishes agriculture's competitiveness, that opens world markets to American

products, and that promotes a fair international trade network is one of the priorities of the coming Congress.

The 100th Congress will also concentrate on other areas that will contribute to our nation's future, such as education, energy programs to increase our country's self-sufficiency, development of a "lean, mean" national defense, and a federal budget that reduces deficits while protecting programs vital to America's prosperity.

Arms control and bettering our relations with the Soviet Union will also be a focus of the 100th Congress, and I hope that the Administration will make a resolution in 1987 to work with Congress to achieve those goals.

My personal agenda for the coming Congress will also include reform of our campaign financing system, which, as it is currently structured, gives special interests a disproportionate amount of influence in the government's decision-making processes.

Conducted against the backdrop of the bicentennial celebrations of the Congress and the Constitution, the 100th Congress promises to be a session packed with important and far-reaching issues that could have an impact on our lives today and on our children's lives.

January 7, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Highlights of 1985: A Step Toward Arms Control

In a year that was sprinkled with victories as well as with disappointments for the U.S. Senate, the Senate's role in the Geneva arms control process stands as one of its most important contributions of 1985.

In September, I led an eight-member Senate delegation to Moscow to discuss arms control with the new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev. Ours was the first Senate delegation to meet with Mr. Gorbachev, and we left that session feeling that we had helped pave the way for the November summit meeting between the Soviet leader and President Reagan.

And, for the first time ever and at my suggestion, U.S. Senate observers were present at the arms control talks, a situation that has given the Senate -- which is responsible for treaty ratification -- valuable, firsthand knowledge of the arms control negotiations.

Among other highlights of the 1985 legislative session are:

--- Congressional funding of a landmark program that it had earlier established at my initiation -- the clean coal technology program. At my request, my colleagues agreed to fund the program -- which is aimed at developing new technologies to use coal -- at nearly \$400 million over the

next three years.

Developing new technologies to use our coal in cleaner ways will give our country a better shot at achieving energy independence, and, for coal-rich states like West Virginia, a program that promotes coal will mean an economic boost and more jobs.

--- Congressional approval of an amendment that I offered that would increase to \$1 million the fine that can be imposed on defense contractors who knowingly cheat the Pentagon. Providing for a strong national defense is a top priority, but our large federal deficits dictate that every defense dollar be spent wisely, which was the goal of my amendment.

--- the successful fight to retain cost-of-living adjustments for social security recipients, despite attempts by the majority party in the Senate to eliminate the COLAS.

The first session of the 99th Congress also saw some important things left undone, including the failure to pass legislation allowing for television coverage of Senate proceedings.

That, and other items of importance to West Virginia and the nation, will be on my agenda when Congress goes back to work this month.

January 8, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Coal Technology: Challenge for the Future

Finding more ways to use coal as an environmentally acceptable fuel is a major challenge facing coal-rich states like West Virginia.

That is why I was pleased when Congress recently passed, and the President signed into law, legislation that funds my Clean Coal Technology Program at a level of \$400 million over a three-year period.

The Clean Coal Technology Program, which I persuaded Congress to establish in 1984, is aimed directly at demonstrating techniques that use coal efficiently in ways that are not harmful to the environment.

As an added incentive to succeed, the guidelines for this program provide that the private sector put up at least half of the cost of any project.

The result should be a broader and more efficient use of coal and more jobs in the coal fields for states like West Virginia.

Last year, following the establishment of the Clean Coal Program by Congress, the Department of Energy received 175 expressions of interest from

the private sector in developing clean coal projects, including four that would be carried out in West Virginia -- two at Weirton Steel, one at West Virginia University in Morgantown, and one from Stirling Energies, Inc., in Beckley.

The funding authorized in the recently passed legislation -- \$100 million for fiscal year 1986 and \$150 million each for fiscal years 1987 and 1988 -- commits the federal government to the development of clean coal projects and allows the Clean Coal Technology Program to go forward.

This is important because clean coal technology holds the potential for stronger national security, greater energy independence, more jobs for Americans, improved energy efficiency, and better environmental performance.

Equally important, this program recognizes the contribution that coal-producing states like West Virginia make to the economy, the national security, and the energy independence of the United States.

January 15, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The War In Afghanistan: Supporting the Freedom Fighters

Six years ago last month, the Soviet Union launched an invasion of Afghanistan that has escalated into one of the most savage wars in recent memory.

Though exact figures are not available, an estimated 500,000 Afghan civilians have died in the war, and more than three million people have been forced to flee Afghanistan, many living in makeshift homes in neighboring Pakistan and Iran.

For the past six years, the Afghan freedom fighters have waged a determined struggle in the face of great adversity, and though experience and firepower are on the side of the Soviets, the Afghans have left the Soviet Union in a war that is increasingly unpopular at home and abroad, and in a war that the Soviets cannot seem to win.

With its mountainous terrain and proud, tough, independent people, Afghanistan is a country that in many ways reminds me of West Virginia.

That feeling of kinship has encouraged me to speak out on behalf of the Afghans in their struggle for freedom against the Soviet invaders.

Consequently, Afghanistan was one of the issues on my mind this past September when I went to Moscow to meet with Soviet Leader Gorbachev.

The main focus of our

meeting was arms control, but I also urged Mr. Gorbachev to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan, a suggestion that led to the most heated exchange in our discussions.

Though Mr. Gorbachev was unyielding on Afghanistan at that time, recent statements and actions by the Soviets give me hope that they may be reconsidering their position with respect to Afghanistan.

Recently, for instance, Mr. Gorbachev said he looked forward to "essential progress" on regional issues in 1986, including Afghanistan.

To help facilitate an end to the brutality being inflicted on innocent people, President Reagan has offered the help of the United States in achieving a settlement between the Soviets and Afghanistan.

President Reagan has stipulated that such a settlement must include the total withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan, independence for the people of that country, and the resettlement of the millions who have fled Afghanistan because of the Soviet invasion.

I hope that 1986 will be the year that the Soviets end their war in Afghanistan, withdraw their military forces from that country, and return to the Afghans complete control of their homeland.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tackling Cancer in West Virginia

Cancer remains a serious health problem in West Virginia, where the American Cancer Society estimates that deaths from the disease are 6 percent higher than the national average.

Despite these troubling statistics, West Virginia has no in-state comprehensive cancer research and treatment center. Many West Virginians who are stricken with cancer have been forced to seek treatment out of state.

I am hopeful this situation will soon be remedied. Just recently, President Reagan signed into law a funding bill that contains my amendment adding \$4.5 million to begin construction of West Virginia's first comprehensive cancer care facility.

The facility is being developed by West Virginia University to provide state-of-the-art cancer research, prevention, and treatment services for West Virginians.

The first-year funding that I secured for this facility, which is to be used in conjunction with other sources of funding, should be available soon to begin

construction.

The University's plans call for the center to be headquartered in Morgantown with at least three satellite centers, in Charleston, Huntington, and Wheeling.

The need for a regional cancer center in West Virginia to serve all of Appalachia was recently acknowledged by the National Cancer Institute, which conducted a study of cancer treatment in the state.

The study, which was conducted at my request as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, found that current cancer research, education, and treatment facilities are scattered throughout the Appalachian region.

Recent medical advances have opened many new possibilities in the prevention and treatment of cancer. I am hopeful that the cancer center at West Virginia University will soon become a reality so that West Virginians can join in exploring the new frontiers of cancer prevention and treatment.

January 29, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Challenger Crew: A Legacy of Courage

Millions of Americans -- in homes and schools and offices, in West Virginia and in every other state in the union -- recently witnessed the tragic death of our exceptionally gifted and courageous fellow Americans aboard the space craft Challenger.

So great had become our confidence in America's space program that few of us were prepared for the tragedy that befell Challenger and its crew.

Most of us did not know Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Ronald McNair, Judy Resnick, Gregory Jarvis, Ellison Onizuka, or Christa McAuliffe personally, but around the country the pain of their deaths was akin to that experienced at the passing of a family member or friend.

All of us -- as individuals, as West Virginians, and as Americans -- felt diminished by this terrible catastrophe.

Part of America's destiny, however, is to be on the cutting edge of mankind's larger destiny. Throughout our history, being an American has often demanded some kind of risk. In generations past, numberless men and women who braved the uncharted oceans to settle America were lost at sea. But others

pressed on, to realize their dreams. Such was the courage that built this nation.

We saw that courage, that questing spirit, exemplified again in the seven members of the Challenger crew. They were aware of the hazards of sailing into the uncharted reaches of outer space, but they were willing to face those risks to expand the boundaries of knowledge.

Those seven dauntless space pioneers realized, as did many of our forebearers, that a pioneering people will always seek the outer frontiers of knowledge.

Their witness cannot be lost. Prophets tell us that space is our destiny. And if Providence is with us, Americans will be in the vanguard of those who reach out into the universe, of those who plant human footsteps on the dust of distant planets.

Schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe planned to teach us about space voyaging from her classroom in the stars. Instead, she and her colleagues taught us a much larger lesson of courage and of humanity. It was a lesson that will stay with us. From this day, wherever we go, the memory of the seven heroes aboard the Challenger will go with us.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Right Approach on Acid Rain

A program to develop cleaner methods of using coal is the best plan of attack in controlling acid rain.

That was the conclusion reached recently by a special U.S.-Canada acid rain task force, and it is a conclusion that I wholeheartedly support.

The special task force -- appointed by President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney -- endorsed an approach that is virtually identical to my own clean coal technology program, which Congress approved in 1984 and funded in 1985.

Since the acid rain debate began several years ago, I have followed a two-track plan.

I have fought the imposition of strict new controls on sulphur dioxide emissions, arguing that we must have conclusive scientific data on its causes and effects before we consider strict regulations which could stunt economic growth in coal areas, cost thousands of jobs, and cause higher utility bills.

At the same time, I

have pressed the federal government to become a partner with the private sector in searching for more environmentally sound ways to use coal.

That is what would happen under my clean coal technology program, which has been funded at \$400 million over the next three years.

The special acid rain task force recognized -- as I do -- the importance of coal to our country's energy future, and its support of clean coal technology is a positive way to tackle the acid rain problem.

The task force called for a five-year, \$2.5 billion federal commitment to develop clean coal technologies, matched by a \$2.5 billion commitment from the private sector. I have urged President Reagan to endorse this approach.

Coal is the fuel of tomorrow, but its future is clouded by those who believe that it is the culprit responsible for the acid rain phenomenon. A clean coal technology program is the only logical course in the acid rain debate.

February 12, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Gramm-Rudman: A Dangerous Course of Action

The American people have heard a lot of debate about the Gramm-Rudman budget amendment in recent weeks, and they will be hearing a great deal more as Congress wrestles with the impact of this law on the budget-making process.

Although a federal court recently declared the Gramm-Rudman law unconstitutional, the ruling will be appealed. In the meantime, Congress will continue to work toward a budget that complies with the guidelines.

Because of the impact that the Gramm-Rudman process could have on so many West Virginians, I think it is important to understand the potential impact of this law and why I oppose it.

Under the Gramm-Rudman process, if Congress fails to cut the budget enough to meet predetermined annual deficit reduction targets, automatic across-the-board cuts in domestic and defense spending will be triggered.

Only a few federal programs, including Social Security and certain health and welfare programs for poor Americans, are exempt from Gramm-Rudman. All other federal programs are subject to deep cuts or outright elimination.

The impact of this on federal, state, and local government services for states like West Virginia could be very serious.

For example, through my efforts on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I obtained millions of dollars in federal assistance to help West Virginia recover from last November's devastating flood.

But Gramm-Rudman does not recognize disastrous emergencies like the West Virginia flood. If that law had been on the books last year, federal funding for pro-

grams vital to the flood recovery effort in West Virginia -- including road and bridge repair by the federal Department of Transportation, stream and farm land rehabilitation by the Soil Conservation Service, and a flash flood warning system by the National Weather Service -- would have been subject to cuts, not increases.

Looking at the broader picture, national security could be jeopardized by overly steep defense cuts, sending the wrong message to the Soviets as the United States continues to work toward arms control at the negotiations in Geneva.

Programs vital to local communities -- such as the police and fire protection provided by general revenue sharing funds, highway construction financed by the Appalachian Regional Commission, or coal research funded by the Department of Energy -- are likely to see their budgets slashed or even eliminated.

And programs essential to people -- black lung benefits, cancer research, education assistance, airline safety, and jobs for disadvantaged young people, to name just a few -- will have to be cut back even further than they have already been cut.

I support efforts to reduce the deficit and balance the budget -- last year I developed an alternate budget that would have accomplished those goals -- but Gramm-Rudman places Congress in a fiscal straitjacket, without providing the leeway to set priorities.

Responsible deficit reduction is one thing, but I fear that Congress and the American people will regret the day that the Gramm-Rudman amendment became law.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tackling the Trade Deficit

Not long ago, I had the privilege of participating in a panel discussion with a group of recognized authorities on trade policy.

The topic of our debate was "free trade-versus-protectionism." However, in my opinion, free trade versus protectionism is not the central trade issue facing the United States. The biggest trade issue facing our nation today is the question of U.S. competitiveness in the international market. To foster that ability to compete, free trade must also mean fair trade.

Our country's trade deficit for 1985 -- a record \$148 billion -- is the largest trade shortfall in our nation's history. A trade deficit of this magnitude is especially troubling to me because the economies of strong exporting states like West Virginia are very sensitive to the U.S. trade deficit. Free trade is essential to a healthy U.S. economy, but fair trade demands that we not allow unfair foreign competition to destroy our native industries, nor can we allow foreign competitors to restrict U.S. exports in an unfair manner.

Just recently, I asked the U.S. Trade Representative to take steps to help two West Virginia companies threatened by foreign trade competition -- to deny duty-free treatment of Mexican glass globes and shades, which could hurt Corning Glass Works' Parkersburg manufacturing operation; and to seek access into Korean markets

for ABS plastics resin, used in a variety of products ranging from telephones to refrigerators. ABS is manufactured by Borg-Warner, which employs more than 2,000 West Virginians at its Parkersburg operation.

These are just two of the many examples of what fairness in trade practices can mean to West Virginia. In a state where one out of every seven jobs depends upon exports, few communities in West Virginia have escaped unscathed from the current trade deficit.

The trade policies of this Administration are leaving basic industries such as steel and ferroalloys -- which are vital to our national security -- increasingly vulnerable to imports. Meanwhile, American jobs are being exported overseas.

The Administration needs to develop and execute a trade policy that recognizes the harmful effects that America's trade deficit has on employment and national security. The Administration must also address the steps that are needed to ensure that our country can remain competitive in the marketplace of a rapidly changing world.

Until that time, America's position in the international marketplace and her industries back home will continue to suffer, because a trade policy that ignores the impact of our huge trade deficit on jobs and on national security is no policy at all.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Televising the U.S. Senate

The United States Senate recently took a history-making step by agreeing to a resolution designed to provide gavel-to-gavel coverage of Senate proceedings.

Over a year ago, when I first introduced a resolution to provide television in the Senate, I said that I believed the Senate could maintain its traditions while also meeting the realities of our times.

I believe the Senate can change without violating its unique role as an institution -- and I believe it must change.

The American people have the right to know, see, and hear what their elected officials are debating. Certainly, television will leave its mark on the Senate; but, more important, television will allow the Senate to leave an even more significant mark on the public mind.

There is virtually no noteworthy aspect of modern life -- in any corner of the globe -- that West Virginians cannot tune into by turning on their television sets. And what we miss on television in the evening, we can hear on our automobile radios the next morning.

Since 1947, the American people have been permitted to see the President

House of Representatives speak to Congress. The House of Representatives televises its proceedings. And yet, until now, the U.S. Senate -- known widely as the world's greatest deliberative body -- has not allowed this electronic door to the world to be opened.

As a result, the American people only partially know and understand the vital work of the Senate and how and why it makes its decisions.

The great majority of West Virginians, for example, seldom have the opportunity to come to the nation's Capitol and observe the deliberations of the Senate. And we who serve here cannot communicate the importance of many of these issues -- or our views about them -- to our constituents nearly as effectively as we could with live broadcast coverage.

An informed electorate is fundamental to an effective democracy. I do not believe that I exaggerate when I say that broadcasting Senate proceedings will make a difference, and a difference for the better, by increasing the level of knowledge about what we do in the Senate and how we make the decisions that affect the lives of every West Virginian and of every U.S. citizen.

March 5, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Help at Tax Time

April 15 -- the deadline for filing federal income tax forms -- is fast approaching.

A famous humorist once said that filling out Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms was a "taxing" experience. Most taxpayers, from time-to-time, probably have yearned for a helping hand at income tax time.

This year, as in past years, the IRS has a number of services to help taxpayers who have questions about their federal tax forms.

West Virginians can call the IRS toll-free -- at 1-800-424-1040 -- for information or assistance in obtaining and filling out tax forms. IRS specialists at this number can also refer callers to the taxpayer assistance office closest to them.

West Virginia has a

permanent IRS district office -- in Parkersburg at 425 Juliana Street -- that is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:15 pm, for taxpayers with questions.

West Virginians can also seek help from one of the IRS's nine special taxpayer assistance offices -- located in Beckley, Bluefield, Bridgeport, Charleston, Logan, Huntington, Martinsburg, Morgantown, and Wheeling.

These special offices operate during the tax filing season -- some on a part-time basis and others full-time -- so that West Virginians can get assistance on a personal basis.

April 15 is just around the corner, and I hope that West Virginians who need help will take advantage of the services offered by the IRS.

March 12, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cashing in on High Technology

When the Pentagon's computers communicate with one another -- or with the nation's defense contractors -- they do so in what is known as the "Ada" computer language.

The Ada language is our defense establishment's universally accepted method of computer communication, and, as a result, Ada-trained computer specialists will find plenty of job opportunities in the years ahead.

Next year alone, an estimated 115,000 to 140,000 computer software jobs will go unclaimed in our country for lack of trained specialists to fill them. And by the year 1990, the Ada computer language industry is expected to be a \$20-billion-a-year business.

I would like to see West Virginia get a chunk of that business, and I have tried to take steps which could assist our state in heading in that direction.

Last summer, I helped establish the Software Valley Corporation, a Morgantown-based, non-profit organization dedicated to bringing high tech businesses and jobs to West Virginia.

One of the other goals

of the Software Valley Corporation is to establish West Virginia as a national Ada language training center -- and in the process, to give qualified West Virginians an edge in getting high-tech jobs.

As a first step, two special Ada-language training sessions have been held at WVU in the last several months.

To build upon those seminars, I announced just recently that, at my urging, the largest-ever national Ada language conference will be held in Charleston's Civic Center in November. More than 100 exhibiting companies will take part in the conference, which will also feature 50 seminars and technical sessions.

High technology and the industry it spawns offer West Virginia a way to broaden its economic base and bring new jobs into the state.

The Software Valley Corporation has made a good start in that direction, and the Charleston Ada conference should prove to be another boost to the efforts to get West Virginia a piece of the high-tech action.

March 19, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pulling Together to Rebuild West Virginia

In a recent ceremony in my U.S. Capitol office, the West Virginia Broadcasters Association was honored for organizing a statewide telethon to help victims of the November floods in West Virginia.

That telethon -- which was broadcast December 7 on all of the state's television stations and many of our radio stations -- raised more than \$1.7 million to assist West Virginians who suffered flood losses.

The honor bestowed on the West Virginia Broadcasters by its parent organization, the National Association of Broadcasters, was well-deserved, and all West Virginians owe our broadcasters a debt of gratitude for their hours of hard work to make the telethon a success.

Their efforts stand as a symbol of how West Virginians have pulled together to rebuild after the flood.

That rebuilding work is far from complete, however.

Just after the floods, tens of millions of federal dollars were earmarked for relief activities in the state.

Now, more than four months after the flood, efforts are still underway in Washington to transform those dollars -- as quickly as the bureaucracy and federal regulations will per-

mit -- into refurbished homes and businesses, and rebuilt roads and bridges.

Just recently, for instance, I learned that \$8.6 million in federal disaster aid designated to repair damage at West Virginia schools had not been released to the state, putting schools that had already undertaken repair work -- in anticipation of receiving the funding -- in a financial bind.

Following a meeting in my office with top Administration officials, federal funds were released to West Virginia, thus clearing the way for schools in 14 counties to proceed with flood repair work.

I have also told the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that I would support a request for extra funding for that agency -- which is \$250 million in the red this year because of the high number of federal disasters in 1985, including the West Virginia flood -- so that it could complete its flood recovery work in our state.

We all wish that the flood recovery effort could move more quickly. Efforts will continue to prod the federal agencies involved in the relief activities to move as quickly as possible to rebuild and restore flood-damaged areas of West Virginia.

March 26, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting Safety in the Skies

"An unsuspecting aviation public flies overhead while Federal Aviation Administration managers hold their breath and pray there are no major outages in air traffic control equipment."

That chilling assessment -- delivered to a Congressional committee by the chief representative of the workers who maintain air traffic control equipment -- is becoming increasingly common as nationwide attention focuses on the safety of air travel.

For years, the flying public has taken for granted the federal government's role in maintaining the highest possible level of airline safety -- from ensuring that planes are well-maintained and pilots are fully qualified to making certain that air traffic controllers and their equipment are top-notch.

In recent months, though, stories of slipshod aircraft maintenance, overworked air controllers, under-qualified pilots, and close calls on the ground and in the air have left many with a feeling that air travel is becoming risky and unsafe.

I share that concern, and recently urged the head

of the Senate Aviation Subcommittee to take a close look at one factor that may be affecting airline safety: the 1978 decision to deregulate the nation's airline industry.

In a letter to Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, I pointed out that airline deregulation has fostered a highly competitive environment within the industry -- competition that could result in airlines cutting corners in safety-related areas such as aircraft maintenance.

Beyond the impact that airline deregulation may be having on airline safety, I believe that we need a strong federal presence -- through the FAA -- to maintain a high level of airline safety.

According to recent news accounts, the FAA is working at less than full strength, a situation that puts that agency at a severe disadvantage in carrying out its responsibilities.

The federal government must take the leading role in ensuring that air travel is as safe as possible, and I will continue to press for vigilance on the part of the government in promoting safety in the skies.

April 2, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Financing West Virginia's High Tech Development

The effort to bring high technology businesses and jobs to West Virginia --to create a "Software Valley" in our state -- is just getting off the ground, and to make it a success, one key ingredient must be found: financing for high-tech development.

For that reason, "Software Valley III"--the third in a series of symposiums I have held in the state to set the stage for a high-tech industry in West Virginia--will concentrate on ways to fund the development or expansion of computer and related businesses.

"Software Valley III" will be held May 22 in Morgantown, and West Virginians will hear representatives from some of the nation's leading accounting, venture capital, investment banking, and business development firms--including Price Waterhouse, BDM Corporation, Ashland Oil, Raytheon Ventures, Baker, Watts and Company, and the Pittsburgh High Technology Council.

Our first two conferences--held last year in Morgantown--laid the foundation for the Software Valley movement in West Virginia.

The movement will not take off, however, unless businessmen can find the capital to start a new venture or to expand an existing business, and I hope

that Software Valley III will give guidance to West Virginians interested in high tech development.

I have also asked Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson --the head of the President's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program -- to give the keynote presentation at the conference. A large part of the proposed SDI program will be dependent on computers and supercomputers, and I believe that West Virginia might benefit by involving Gen. Abrahamson in our Software Valley effort.

"Software Valley III" will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Morgantown's Sheraton Lakeview Inn, and West Virginians can make reservations by contacting Ms. Diane Fowler at the Sheraton, Route 6, Box 88A, Morgantown (1-800-624-8300 or 304-594-1111). The cost of the conference is \$35 per person, which includes lunch.

The interest that I found among West Virginians during the first two Software Valley conferences was enough to convince me that high technology could become a bright spot in the state's future economic picture. Finding the money to undertake high tech development -- and setting up successful firms -- should bring that economic picture into focus.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Balancing the Budget: A Case for Responsible Action

Grappling with the budget under the new restraints of the Gramm-Rudman process is one of the most pressing, and most difficult, tasks facing Congress this year.

We all want to reduce the deficit and balance the budget. At the same time, we must be very careful to protect programs that are vital to people and vital to the future of our country.

As Congress moves closer to producing a budget, the problems caused by the Gramm-Rudman process are becoming increasingly evident. The Gramm-Rudman amendment -- which I voted against -- has imposed a fiscal straitjacket on Congress that makes it difficult to deal with economic realities.

Recently, the Senate was asked to vote on another budget measure -- a resolution calling for a balanced budget constitutional amendment.

Like many West Virginians, I support a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. In fact, I offered an alternative to the original proposal that was introduced in the Senate, the Simon-Hatch amendment. Both the proposals were defeated, for different reasons.

My balanced budget constitutional amendment alternative would have accomplished the goal of constitutionally mandating

a balanced federal budget, and it clearly would have protected our national security in the event of an undeclared war such as Vietnam or Korea.

My amendment provided an automatic exception for war, whether declared or undeclared, and for any other type of military conflict.

The Simon-Hatch amendment, which I did not support, was unsound, in my opinion, because it could have hampered our nation's ability to provide for vital national security interests.

Although the Simon-Hatch proposal provided an escape hatch to enable the country to mobilize for a declared war, it did not adequately address the problem of providing for our national security needs in a time of undeclared war.

When it comes to budget matters, I believe that we must invest in America's future -- e.g., in education and research and resource development -- while at the same time providing for a strong national defense.

Congress has discovered that the Gramm-Rudman restrictions make our budget goals hard to reach. The additional restrictions proposed under the Simon-Hatch amendment could have made those priorities very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Applause for America's Military Forces in Libya

All Americans have a right to be proud of the bravery and superior professionalism demonstrated by our armed forces in carrying out the recent attack against the terrorist operations of the government in Libya.

Many West Virginians have contacted me to express their views on the attack, and to convey their hope that this action will not precipitate further violence. Americans recognize that something must be done to combat terrorism, and we all hope that this was the right action.

As residents of one of the most patriotic states in the nation, West Virginians can share a particular sense of pride and patriotism in the performance of our fighting forces.

I believe many West Virginians also share my disappointment in the reluctance of many of our European allies -- with the laudable exception of Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher -- to support the United States in its efforts to deter Colonel Khadafy's regime from its policy of terrorism, including support for economic sanctions as well as giving our military troops at least overflight rights during the recent military action.

Terrorism is a world

problem which demands a world solution. The sooner that other nations recognize this fundamental reality, the sooner that appropriate common steps can be taken.

Before our military operation, most of America's allies responded inadequately to requests for joint efforts to combat international terrorism. By placing economic self-interests above a common approach against terrorism, these nations failed to take the actions which might have reduced the need for this military strike.

I hope our allies recognize this and will now join with the United States in a renewed anti-terrorism campaign encompassing a full range of actions in the economic, political, diplomatic, criminal justice, and security areas.

I am very hopeful that the actions taken by the United States will have the desired effects -- to damage Libya's military and terrorist support sites, and to inhibit Colonel Khadafy and others like him from further terrorist acts.

I also hope that in the future, many more of our allies will meet the standards set by Prime Minister Thatcher in the continued battle against international terrorism.

April 23, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Falling Oil Prices: A Mixed Blessing

Oil prices have tumbled more than 50 percent in the last six months, holding forth the prospect of lower energy costs, less inflation, and greater economic growth.

Gasoline for less than a dollar a gallon is a welcome sight, to be sure, but I am concerned that the short-term benefits brought about by cheaper oil will be outweighed by the long-term price tag.

Already, signs point to energy problems in the future.

For instance, despite the expected increase in domestic consumption, American producers have cut back on oil exploration and production.

Industry experts predict that many domestic "stripper" wells -- the kind of low volume oil production found in states like West Virginia -- will be forced out of operation.

In response to cuts in domestic oil production, the nation's refiners have begun selling off their refining capacity, much of which is being purchased by foreign oil producers in an effort to establish direct links to American consumers.

Cheap foreign oil also hurts coal-rich states like West Virginia, as large industrial users and electric utilities switch from coal and natural gas to the more economical foreign oil.

Former Energy Secretary James Schlesinger said

recently that he feared we were "sowing the seeds of the next oil crisis." For those of us who can remember the long gasoline lines of the 1970s, the thought of another oil crisis is not a pleasant one.

But even more important than the inconvenience an oil crisis would cause consumers is the impact that reliance on foreign oil could have on national defense.

Our domestic oil industry is an important contributor to our national security, and we could find ourselves in deep trouble if we were forced to rely on foreign countries -- and especially on unstable countries -- for the oil necessary to our defense effort.

That is one reason why we should use this opportunity to fill our nation's strategic petroleum reserve. Unfortunately, the Administration is proposing a moratorium on further development of the reserve after it reaches 500 million barrels of oil, 250 million barrels less than required by law. With oil prices so low and the future so uncertain, this appears to be a penny-wise but pound-foolish decision.

All these factors must be taken into account as the nation considers its energy future, and we must strive for a policy that produces not only short-term benefit, but one that also results in long-term gain.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Talking Trade With Japan

West Virginia provides almost 40 percent of the coal that Japan imports each year, so the fact that Japan's U.S. coal purchases have dropped by nearly two-thirds since 1982 is cause for concern.

That concern was on my mind recently when a group of senators and I met with Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone during his visit to Washington for discussions with President Reagan.

After the luncheon, I asked my good friend, former Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, who is now our ambassador to Japan, to deliver a letter from me to Prime Minister Nakasone. In the letter, I urged the Japanese leader to step up his country's purchases of American goods and services, particularly our coal.

My interest in seeing Japan buy more American goods is twofold: Not only would it benefit West Virginia -- one of the country's leading coal exporting states and a top exporter of manufactured goods -- but it would also help ease the U.S. trade deficit, which has grown to historic and damaging proportions.

Despite the fact that Japan has reportedly increased its coal purchases from other coal exporting countries, I am troubled that Japan last year imported only 13.3 million metric tons of U.S. coal --down from 31 million metric tons in 1982. Further, U.S. producers have

been told by Japanese officials to expect coal purchases to dwindle even further in 1986, to approximately 11 million tons.

Coal, glass, chemicals, and automobile parts could fill the needs of Japanese industry while a host of U.S. manufactured goods could be useful to Japanese consumers. Stepped up imports of these goods by Japan could help ease our record \$50 billion trade deficit with that country.

I have pointed that out to Prime Minister Nakasone, adding that unless we see some progress on the part of foreign countries -- and particularly on Japan's part--toward fair trade policies that will help whittle down U.S. trade deficits, our trading partners face the possibility of the U.S. taking strong steps to protect itself against unfair foreign trade and to even our unbalanced trade situation.

To his credit, the Japanese Prime Minister has made some inroads toward improving the U.S./Japan trade relationship, and I commend him for his efforts.

But I also believe --and I have conveyed this belief to Prime Minister Nakasone and to many other Japanese government and industry leaders -- that more must be done by his government and by Japan's industrial leaders to improve trade between our two countries.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate's 1987 Budget: A Good Starting Point

The Senate recently completed one of its most challenging tasks this year when it passed a budget for 1987 that is designed to fund federal services adequately while meeting the deficit reduction targets of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget process.

The budget that the Senate passed is certainly not perfect, but it is a workable document, and it represents an important victory by averting the calamity of triggering the Gramm-Rudman automatic budget cuts.

As one who opposed the Gramm-Rudman amendment, and who has been worried about the consequences of the Gramm-Rudman process, I am pleased that the Senate approved a bipartisan budget designed to achieve a balanced budget in three years and adequately fund national defense without raising income taxes.

On the plus side, as the result of an amendment I cosponsored, this budget has \$1.2 billion more in fiscal 1987 education funding than did the original Senate Budget Committee proposal -- though frankly, this was not as much funding as I would have preferred.

I believe that the Senate was shortsighted in rejecting a second amendment I cosponsored, which would have invested \$17.1 billion over the next three years in education, job training, and basic science and research.

I also believe that the Senate

made a mistake in rejecting an amendment I cosponsored to provide full funding for federal revenue sharing -- \$4.3 billion a year -- for the next three years.

Federal revenue sharing is important to communities in West Virginia and throughout the country, and I am disappointed that the Senate voted to continue revenue sharing for only the first half of next year.

Hopefully, education funding and revenue sharing -- both of which are opposed by the Administration -- will be addressed again this year, either by the House of Representatives when it takes up the budget or in conference committee, where differences between the House and Senate bills will be resolved.

Other pluses in the Senate budget of particular importance to West Virginia are that cost-of-living adjustments are protected for Social Security recipients, veterans, black lung beneficiaries, and other federal retirees.

In addition, programs that the President's budget would have eliminated -- including the Appalachian Regional Commission, Economic Development Administration, Urban Development Action Grant program, and Amtrak -- are saved, for the most part with funding frozen at this year's levels, and that is good news for West Virginia.

May 14, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley's Business Plan for West Virginia

West Virginia's Software Valley movement -- begun less than a year ago -- would mean new jobs and industries for our state.

The founders of the Software Valley Corporation are developing a business plan for the entire state -- one that would reach past the I-79 corridor and draw other West Virginia communities into the lucrative and growing commercial and defense computer software markets.

Specifically, the Software Valley Corporation's business plan for West Virginia would:

---encourage major, established data systems corporations to locate in West Virginia;

---assist the start-up of new businesses across the state and support existing state high-tech industries through conferences, information and personnel exchanges, and computer services;

---establish a national software engineering training center in West Virginia that would focus on the practical, marketable, industrial applications of software engineering;

---develop, in conjunction with the state's institutions of higher learning, an academic program to educate and train West Virginians in advanced technology fields; and

---work with Pittsburgh's Software Engineering Institute and the National Science Foundation Supercomputer Consortium in their efforts to transfer research and development technology into commercial applications.

The Software Valley movement is gathering steam, and that is good news for West Virginia and for those of us who have been working to develop high-tech industry in our state.

May 21, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Refocusing on Airline Safety

Is air travel in the United States as safe as it can be?

I have grown increasingly concerned that the margin of airline safety has deteriorated since the deregulation of the airline industry several years ago, and I believe it is time to reexamine the federal government's role in aviation safety.

Since airline deregulation went into effect, I have heard time and again from West Virginians who are disappointed or angry over the fact that airline service to our state has declined while rates have skyrocketed.

And now, serious questions are being raised about the safety of the airlines since deregulation.

I am concerned that the fierce competition among airlines has caused some airlines to skimp on safety and maintenance, and that air travel safety is being compromised as a result.

Further, I believe that valid questions have been raised over whether the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) can effectively make airline safety its top priority when the agency is also in the business of promoting aviation.

Under its current structure, the FAA has the dual responsibilities of promoting commercial aviation and of ensuring aviation safety. I am concerned that those two responsibilities might not al-

ways be compatible.

For these reasons, I have introduced legislation in the Senate that would establish a special "blue ribbon" commission to determine if the FAA can effectively carry out both responsibilities, or if airline safety and aviation promotion should be handled by separate agencies.

Under my legislation, the President would appoint an independent panel made up of seven members, who are to have extensive expertise in corporate management but no ties to the FAA or the commercial aviation industry.

That independent panel would have one year to submit to the President and to Congress its findings on the FAA and its recommendations on how airline safety procedures can be improved.

My bill has received bipartisan support in the Senate -- including Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va.; Ernest Hollings, D-S.C.; James Exon, D-Nebraska; Wendell Ford, D-Ky.; Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kans., who is chairman of the Senate Aviation Subcommittee; and Sen. Mark Andrews, R-N.Dak., who chairs the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

Airline safety is important to every American, and I hope that my legislation will be a step toward ensuring safety in the skies for us all.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hotlines: Information You Can Use

West Virginians with federally related questions or problems have access to information through a variety of toll-free telephone hotlines.

Following is a list of some of the toll-free hotlines maintained by the federal government that may be useful to West Virginians.

Consumer Product Safety	
Commission.....	1-800-638-2772
(Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Retired Army Pay.....	1-800-428-2290
Army Employment Information.....	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Employment	
Information.....	1-800-423-2600
Navy Employment Information.....	1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information	
Clearinghouse.....	1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management	
Agency.....	1-800-638-6620
(Flood Insurance Information)	
National Health Information	
Clearinghouse.....	1-800-336-4797
Cancer Information, Department of Health	
and Human Services.....	1-800-638-6694
Parent Anonymous (child abuse).....	1-800-421-0353
National Runaway Switchboard.....	1-800-621-4000
(For parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Transportation Department.....	1-800-424-9393
(Auto safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C, Central Reservation	
Center.....	1-800-554-2220
(Information on lodging in the nation's capital)	

June 4, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The West Virginia Flood: A New Push for Recovery

It has been seven months since the disastrous flood that devastated a large area of West Virginia, and some individuals and communities still are in need of assistance.

Immediately following the flood, I took a variety of actions to bring emergency federal assistance to West Virginia. Now, I am bringing federal officials back into West Virginia to take a follow-up look to determine what still needs to be done.

For example, many West Virginians have complained about delays on the part of Washington- and Atlanta-based agents of the Small Business Administration (SBA) in processing loans for flood-related claims.

I met not long ago with the new acting administrator of the agency and a group of West Virginians, and I told the SBA administrator that there had been too much bureaucratic foot-dragging.

The administrator, Charles Heatherly, responded immediately to my concerns by sending 16 additional SBA personnel into West Virginia to speed the processing of loans, and by directing agency personnel to review and expedite the handling of pending loan applications. I have asked for weekly reports from the SBA so that I can monitor the progress of this effort.

But the SBA is only one agency involved in the work that still needs to be done in West Virginia as a result of the flood. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently added \$8 million to a Senate supplemental funding bill to enable the

federal Soil Conservation Service to continue flood recovery activities in West Virginia.

This funding is needed to continue clean-up activities in streams and rivers, where debris and gravel deposits pose a threat of future flooding with only moderate rainfall.

In the Senate, I have been able to secure a time extension to help Preston County school officials apply for federal funding to rebuild the Rowlesburg School, which was destroyed by the flood. I also acted to move the supplemental funding bill onto a faster track for Senate consideration so that FEMA -- which has depleted its disaster relief funds -- could receive \$250 million needed for work in West Virginia and throughout the nation.

In addition, I recently directed members of my staff and officials from several federal agencies to visit or survey by helicopter many of the counties damaged in the flood to determine what clean-up work remains to be done.

I was able to accompany the tour into some of the counties that had been most devastated so that I could see first-hand the problems that remain. This comprehensive sweep of the state should enable the proper federal agencies -- including FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Soil Conservation Service -- to identify and, where possible, to finish the clean-up job.

The people of West Virginia were hard hit by last year's flood. They are entitled to get all the help possible so that they can put this suffering behind them.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Choices Ahead For Our West Virginia Graduates

In recent weeks, thousands of young West Virginians began a new journey when they picked up their diplomas and became high school graduates.

Many young West Virginians will continue their education at an institution of higher learning; others will choose the military; some will enter the workforce, an apprentice program, or take another course.

But whatever decision they make, our young West Virginians will be making choices that will help shape the rest of their lives.

Anyone who has attended a graduation ceremony recently has probably heard a commencement address about a world full of opportunities and a bright future ahead.

Those things can be true. But increasingly, the world into which our graduates will go is a place of intense competition. Young Americans will not be competing just with one another, but also with alert, hard-working, intelligent men and women from other countries.

If America is to stay Number One in the world, and if we are to keep and create jobs in America and in West Virginia, we are going to have to outwork, out-perform, out-produce, and out-train

our foreign rivals.

That was on my mind recently when the Senate considered the Higher Education Act -- a bill that renews the federal government's student aid programs, including guaranteed student loans, scholarship programs, teacher training programs, and others.

I supported this bill, which I believe may be a deciding factor in whether some high school graduates can go to the college of their choice; whether those students can finish their college degrees; or whether parents can afford to send their sons and daughters to college.

At my urging, the Senate adopted my amendment to that bill to encourage college students participating in the work-study program to provide tutoring services, which could help improve the quality of education in our high schools, elementary schools, and adult education classes.

Today's West Virginia high school graduates -- and graduates from across the nation -- are tomorrow's leaders, workers, builders, and innovators, and the better we prepare them academically, the better decisions they will be able to make about their futures and the direction of our country.

June 18, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Happy Birthday, Lady Liberty!

One of America's most famous women -- and the symbol of our country's freedoms and opportunities -- will mark her 100th birthday this year.

Appropriately, July 4th weekend will climax America's celebration of the centennial of the Statue of Liberty, which, since October 28, 1886, has stood in New York Harbor and welcomed millions of immigrants to a land of new possibilities and promise.

The Statue of Liberty has weathered two world wars and the storms of a century since the day President Grover Cleveland accepted it as a gift to the United States from France.

Those years took their toll on the statue's structure, prompting President Reagan to launch a special commission in 1983 to rehabilitate Lady Liberty.

Repairs to the 151-foot, 225-ton statue -- including replacement of the iron supports for the statue's copper exterior and a duplication of the torch -- are nearly complete, and carry a pricetag of \$66.3 million.

West Virginians and

all Americans can take pride in the fact that the statue's facelift has been financed by private contributions from millions of Americans -- a demonstration of the high regard in which the Statue of Liberty is held.

An estimated 10 million Americans will gather in New York on July 4th weekend to see President Reagan light the statue's torch -- which has been dark since restoration work began -- and pay tribute to the ideals for which the statue has stood for these past 100 years -- for freedom and opportunity and a better life for millions.

Perhaps the poet Emma Lazarus expressed it best when she wrote of the Statue of Liberty:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Happy Birthday, Lady Liberty, and may your lamp of freedom shine for centuries to come!

June 25, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Rain Controls: Fighting a Renewed Threat

Recently, supporters of acid rain controls have renewed their campaign in Congress to see legislation passed that could prove devastating to states like West Virginia.

For example, an acid rain bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives that would cost an estimated 7,200 jobs in West Virginia and result in about \$690 million in annual losses to the state's economy.

And, according to the United Mine Workers of America, similar legislation that has been introduced in the Senate would have even more disastrous effects on coal-producing states like West Virginia.

I am concerned that well-meaning supporters of acid rain legislation have lost sight of the consequences of their proposals on the everyday lives of ordinary people.

For instance, some proponents of acid rain controls contend that workers displaced from the high sulfur coal mines of West Virginia's northern panhandle as a result of acid rain legislation could easily find work in the low sulfur coal fields of southern West Virginia.

Unfortunately, this argument -- even if relocating were that simple -- ignores the impact on the communities. Acid rain legislation such as that being proposed in the House and the Senate would turn

coal mining communities in northern West Virginia into ghost towns. Shopkeepers, school teachers, gas station attendants -- all the people that make up a community would be affected by dislocations in the coal industry.

Beyond all the statistics and scientific measurements, the effect of these acid rain bills on people is what really matters. I will vigorously oppose any legislation that would have such devastating consequences on West Virginia.

What is needed is a positive approach to the problem of acid rain. That is why I believe that my Clean Coal Technology Program is so important.

The Clean Coal Technology Program -- which I authored and for which I secured \$400 million in funding over a three-year period -- is designed to find ways to use coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

The Clean Coal Program holds the potential to produce cleaner air, jobs, and energy for the future. It represents a positive, non-regulatory approach to the acid rain problem.

All Americans, including West Virginians, have a great deal at stake in the acid rain issue. If we are to preserve jobs and secure our energy future, we must look toward positive solutions -- such as Clean Coal Technology -- to resolve the acid rain debate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Protecting the Nation's Libraries

The public library is a focal point of many communities in West Virginia and across the country -- a place to gather, a place to learn, a place to spend an afternoon discovering new worlds.

Our public library network is a source of national pride, and the investment we make in keeping that network in operation is returned tenfold in the benefits and knowledge gained by the millions of Americans who use the nation's libraries.

I was concerned, therefore, when the 1987 federal budget proposal -- crafted in the shadow of the Gramm-Rudman budget process -- called for drastic reductions in the services offered by the Library of Congress to libraries across the nation. One of the reasons I opposed the Gramm-Rudman process was because I recognized that it would force automatic cuts like this in important services.

The importance of the Library of Congress to our library system nationwide was underscored by Frederic J. Glazer, executive director of the West Virginia Library Commission, who recently wrote me:

"I would hope that the Congress will not blindly follow recommendations which undermine the ability of the Library of Congress to be our national focal point for information,

books, and in essence, the finest library collection not only in the nation but in the world as well."

I used Mr. Glazer's quote in persuading my colleagues to adopt my amendment -- to a supplemental federal funding bill recently approved by Congress -- to add back funding for the Library of Congress to help it purchase 40,000 new books and to continue its cataloging and bibliographic service.

In a related area, our nation's small public libraries have also been hurt by recent telephone rate increases of nearly 43 percent, which have made it too expensive for many small public and college libraries to continue using the bibliographic services of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC).

I have protested the rate hikes to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Mark Fowler, and urged him to take our libraries into consideration when future rate hike requests come before his agency.

Our libraries are too important to fall victim to unwise federal budget cuts, and I hope that the recent approval of my Library of Congress amendment will reassure West Virginians and other Americans that we are committed to preserving the knowledge and learning symbolized by our nation's libraries.

July 9, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tax Reform: A Giant Step Toward Fairness

Not long ago, the U.S. Senate passed a landmark tax reform bill that is crafted to bring tax relief to Americans in every income category.

This legislation is true tax reform. It reduces the heavy tax burden borne by the middle class, and it eliminates tax shelters and loopholes so that major profitable corporations and very high income individuals pay their fair share of federal taxes.

But beyond these monumental accomplishments for Americans in every income category, the Senate tax bill achieves something else -- it addresses the skepticism about the ability of the government to hear the people's voice, address the people's concerns, and enact fundamental changes in the tax code.

Still, there is room for improvement, and we are bound to see some changes as a joint conference committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives works over the coming weeks to iron out differences.

One area of discussion will be Individual Retirement Accounts, or IRAs. I have heard from hundreds of West Virginians concerned about the impact of the tax bill on their IRAs, and I fought during debate on the tax bill to restore the federal income tax deduction for IRA contributions. Although that effort did not succeed, I am hopeful that the issue will be addressed again by the con-

ference committee.

Although the IRA question will have to be resolved by the conference committee, the Senate did act on several items that will benefit West Virginians.

For example, my amendment allowing business owners who were victims of West Virginia's 1985 flood to choose between old and new depreciation systems will help defray the cost of rebuilding, and could save West Virginia businesses as much as \$10 million.

I co-sponsored an amendment to preserve tax incentives to encourage the formation of employee buy-outs of troubled companies -- such as the Weirton Steel ESOP -- and I offered an amendment, which the Senate adopted, to protect the pensions of coal miners who retired prior to 1976 or their surviving widows.

Additionally, Senator Rockefeller and I joined in the successful effort to fight off an attempt to strip the tax bill of an investment tax credit provision needed by the steel industry in West Virginia and elsewhere to help modernize and upgrade steel plants.

The action of the Senate in passing this massive tax reform legislation should go a long way toward making our tax code fairer and helping to restore some of the lost confidence in America's system of representative democracy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Striving for a Bigger Role In the National Defense Effort

West Virginia is rich with assets and opportunities -- factors that have helped my efforts to more firmly plug our state into the military defense network.

In the last several years -- with the growing emphasis on beefing up our national defense -- West Virginians have recognized the potential offered by increased defense-related activities in our state.

I am pleased that the Defense Department has begun to recognize the potential that West Virginia -- with its able and abundant workforce, its proximity to Washington and other major metropolitan areas, and its growing number of community services -- has to offer to our national defense effort.

These assets have generated an encouraging response from the Defense Department, which has approximately \$100 million in construction projects underway or contemplated for West Virginia over the next five years.

For instance, after a series of meetings I have held with Army Secretary John Marsh to try to increase Army activities in West Virginia, the Army has agreed to locate in our state an Army Reserve equipment maintenance company, a Reserve ground ambulance company, and two National Guard ambulance helicopter units, as well as expanding Army Reserve facilities at Camp Dawson in Preston County and accelerating construction of a

number of Army Reserve building projects throughout the state.

And just recently, a Senate Armed Services subcommittee gave its approval to a number of military projects which I have been working to secure for West Virginia, including \$8.7 million for an Army student training facility at Camp Dawson; \$5 million for ramp and runway improvements at the Martinsburg Air National Guard facility in Berkeley County; and \$625,000 to expand the Charleston Air National Guard facility in Kanawha County.

Encouraging increased military activity in West Virginia is only one part of the effort needed if West Virginia is to gain a greater share of the defense dollar.

That is why I have held a series of seminars in West Virginia to help our business community win more defense-related contracts, and it is why I have been working, through the Software Valley movement, to promote West Virginia as a logical home for defense-related and high-tech commercial businesses.

The defense industry offers West Virginia great potential in terms of new jobs and new business, and West Virginia, with its many attractive features, can become a greater and more important part of the country's national defense effort. I shall continue to do everything I can to promote West Virginia's potential.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Well Done, Weirton Steel!

Weirton Steel Corporation's proposal to produce iron from coal -- without using a coking process -- is one of nine projects across the nation recently selected to be the first participants in the federal Clean Coal Technology Program.

The Hancock County steelmaker's selection is good news for the company, for the Weirton area, and for the state of West Virginia, and I am proud that Weirton Steel's project is one of the select few that will now negotiate for funding under the nearly \$400 million federal program.

The news of Weirton Steel's selection is especially meaningful to me because of my sponsorship of the Clean Coal Technology Program.

I first introduced legislation creating the Clean Coal Technology Program in 1983; and in 1984, despite objections from the Administration, I gained congressional approval for the program. Last year -- again over the objections of the Administration -- I was able to secure congressional approval to fund almost \$400 million worth of clean coal projects.

Establishing the Clean Coal Technology Program has been a tough fight, but the effort has been worth it because the program holds great potential for coal-producing states like West Virginia.

The Weirton Steel proposal -- which was one

of 51 projects submitted for funding to the U.S. Department of Energy -- allows for the use of either high or low sulfur coal directly in a clean steel-making process, avoiding the cost and the environmental problems associated with the coking process.

In fact, Weirton Steel's proposal carries a triple benefit for West Virginia and other steel and coal states: It promotes the use of coal, it helps the steel industry by reducing production costs, and it safeguards air quality by eliminating the coking step.

I was encouraged that two other West Virginia clean coal proposals -- one at West Virginia University in Morgantown and the other a United Coal Company proposal tentatively slotted for the community of Sharples in Logan County -- are among 14 projects under consideration by DOE as alternatives should any of the nine selected projects fall through.

Just four years ago, the future was uncertain for Weirton Steel. Today, the employee-owners of the company have built an impressive record of profits. And now, Weirton Steel has put together a solid proposal that holds much promise for the company and for the future of both the coal and the steel industries.

Well done, Weirton Steel! West Virginia is behind you.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Message from West Virginia: Let Us Compete!

West Virginia's basic industries -- like those of the rest of the nation -- have been a chief contributor to America's strength.

Our steel, coal, glass, ferroalloys, chemicals, timber, and other industries have been a key factor in making America a great world power.

But today, our basic industries are under attack by foreign enemies -- enemies who are using government subsidies and import barriers to steal American jobs and put American businesses out of operation.

Our country is in a worldwide trade war, and with a record \$148.5 billion trade deficit in 1985, the time has passed for this Administration to recognize our trade problems and take strong actions to correct them.

During a recent congressional break, I toured several West Virginia companies, including American Cyanamid and Borg Warner in Parkersburg, Weirton Steel, and the Wheeling-Pitt/Nisshin joint steel venture in Follansbee.

At each stop, I was impressed by the high degree of professionalism among employees and management; by the dedication they exhibited; and by the excellence of their operations and their products.

After visiting just this small sampling of West Virginia companies, I am more convinced than ever that American companies can outpace, outproduce,

and outdistance their foreign competitors.

But West Virginia companies -- indeed, companies across the country -- cannot compete in the face of the unfair trade practices of our foreign competitors supported by foreign governments.

The answer to our trade crisis is a strong national trade policy that puts our workers on an equal footing with their foreign competitors. But that will not be possible unless the Administration finally backs a fair trade policy.

The sentiment for such a policy is already in Congress. For my own part, I have introduced bills in the Senate to protect many crucial American industries from imports. In addition, I have appointed a Senate working group on trade, which has urged the Administration to get behind a tough, realistic trade policy.

Unfortunately, the Administration is now opposing any meaningful trade legislation in Congress.

American industries and workers are not afraid to compete with their foreign rivals. They are not looking for protectionist measures or worldwide trade wars. They are simply looking for trade policies that give our industries and workers a chance to compete.

That is the message I have heard from West Virginia, and it is the message I will keep trying to pound home to this Administration.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Waging War Against a Deadly Enemy

Pick up the local newspaper or turn on a news broadcast and you are likely to discover evidence of a growing national tragedy -- a tragedy that is ruining tens of thousands of American lives each year.

A young athlete dies at the peak of his career after ingesting a large amount of cocaine.

Scandal hits a top-notch university when a dozen students are charged with the sale of narcotics.

A familiar television star is arrested and jailed for possession of drugs.

A well-known rock musician admits that he is a heroin addict.

Drug and substance abuse are very quickly becoming our country's greatest enemy, and winning the battle against drugs will require a major commitment of national will.

The President's Commission on Organized Crime has estimated that within the United States, there are four million cocaine users, half a million heroin addicts, and twenty million regular users of marijuana.

Thousands of innocent Americans are also affected by

drug abuse each year. As much as 60 percent of all street crime in our country could be drug-related, according to the Administration.

My concern about drugs prompted me recently to set up a special Democratic Senate Working Group on Drug and Substance Abuse.

My working group will concentrate its study on six major areas:

- stricter law enforcement and stiffer penalties;
- eradication of drug crops;
- interdiction of drug shipments and drug traffickers;
- domestic enforcement of substance abuse laws;
- public education on the dangers of drug abuse; and
- treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

I have no illusions that my working group alone will be able to free our country from the death grip of drug abuse. But it can develop legislative proposals and push ideas with the hope of obtaining legislative action in the near future to help conquer our national drug problem.

August 13, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Television in the Senate: A Successful Experiment

Since the opening day of the 99th Congress, when I introduced the legislation that was enacted to broadcast the proceedings of the U.S. Senate, I have spoken many times on why I believed that television and radio in the Senate were long overdue.

In the wake of an overwhelming vote on July 29 in favor of permanent radio and television coverage, the Senate has now entered a new era of openness and accessibility.

Starting with the first day of televised Senate debate during the six-week trial period back in June, television coverage proved itself to be a positive force in the Senate.

In catching up with 20th century technology, the Senate now has a stronger voice in the national debate. People throughout this country for the first time are able to see and hear the Senate in action -- debating the tax bill, voting on the nation's budget, deciding the issues in the Department of Defense bill.

Many West Virginians have expressed to me their amazement that it took the Senate so long to go to television. They see this as

their right as American citizens. And I agree with them.

The American people have the right to be as fully informed as possible about the workings of their government. This principle is fundamental to an effective representative democracy. The survival of our nation depends on an informed electorate, and television in the Senate already has proved its worth as a source of unedited, unabridged information about what we do here and how we make the decisions that affect the lives of all U.S. citizens.

I believed from the beginning of the debate over television that the Senate's unique role in our government could be preserved -- even with the cameras and the microphones on. The test period proved that to be the case.

I have every confidence that the Senate and the American people, 10 or 15 or 20 years from now, will applaud this decision and will look back with gratitude -- gratitude tinged with astonishment that the Senate waited for so long to open its doors to live television broadcasts.

August 20, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Campaign Financing: The Need for Reform

Every election year, we see new evidence of the spiraling cost of campaigning. Candidates are having to raise and spend ever larger sums of money to get elected. And more and more, that money is coming from political action committees, or PAC's, representing special interests.

Many Americans belong to PAC's, and many PAC's represent the beliefs of a majority of Americans. Unfortunately, the PAC system tends to give special interests a disproportionate amount of influence in the decision-making process.

There is nothing illegal about PAC campaign contributions, but there is something wrong with our campaign laws because they allow -- and even encourage -- PAC's to play such a large role in elections.

This is a problem that strikes at the heart of our representative form of democracy. For this reason, the U.S. Senate has been debating legislation that I am cosponsoring with Sen. David Boren of Oklahoma to limit the influence of PAC's.

Our proposal places a population-based ceiling on the total amount of PAC contributions that congressional candidates may accept, and it restricts the capability of PAC's to exploit loopholes in the law through which they have

been able to elude even the current inadequate limitations on PAC contributions.

Our proposal is not a condemnation of PAC's. It is a condemnation of a process that encourages campaign costs to skyrocket and fosters cynicism among the American people. I am concerned that if something is not done about PAC contributions and the "money chase" that candidates must engage in, our political system will self-destruct.

Ours is a government of representatives elected by the people -- representatives who make judgments which in their view best serve the national interest and best reflect the wishes of the people who elect them.

We Americans continue to put our faith in that system. But once that faith is undermined, America is in trouble. Our current system of campaign financing undermines that faith, and that is why I have been working to change it.

It will not be easy to achieve the reforms that are badly needed, but it is an effort of such importance to our form of government that it must be faced, and it must be met successfully. The legislation I am cosponsoring with Senator Boren is an important step in the right direction.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Students Speak Out

The nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union continues to top the list of concerns expressed to me by West Virginia high school students.

In my yearly questionnaire to West Virginia's nearly 200 public and private schools, a plurality of the students -- 34 percent -- told me that nuclear arms escalation was the country's greatest concern. Last year's questionnaire evoked a similar response.

Federal budget deficits were also on the minds of the West Virginia students, with 23 percent of the nearly 8,000 respondents listing them as the nation's top problem.

I was impressed by the students' thoughtful, honest, perceptive answers, which have given me good insight into the issues that are important to them.

For instance:

---44 percent of the students told me that the state's biggest challenge was increasing job opportunities, followed by attracting more business to the state, which was mentioned by 30 percent;

---41 percent of the respondents said that they believed the federal budget had gotten out of control because Congress was reluctant to cut programs important to their constituents;

---West Virginia students are supportive of the Social Security program, with 95 percent saying it was important to their future;

---By a 54-46 margin, the students said they

thought the U.S. bombing of Libya would discourage future acts of aggression;

---As they did in last year's questionnaire, West Virginia students opposed the Administration's proposal to send \$100 million in aid to help the Nicaraguan contras overthrow the Sandinista government;

---On arms control, the students opposed -- by a 60-40 margin -- the development of space-based weapons. And by a 49-39 margin, the students thought that little was accomplished toward arms control at the November summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet Leader Gorbachev;

---The manned space program was another item of importance to West Virginia students, with 86 percent in favor of continuing it.

I was particularly interested in the responses I received when I asked the students what they would most like to discuss with me and what their top priority would be if they were a U.S. Senator.

Jobs headed the list of what the students would most like to discuss, followed by arms control. And 36 percent of the students told me that if they were a senator, they would concentrate on bringing more jobs and industry to West Virginia.

West Virginia students have again demonstrated their keen interest in the events of the day, and I am pleased that so many of them took the time to share their thoughts with me.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our National Security

West Virginians often tell me that strengthening America's national security should be one of the federal government's top priorities.

I agree. But I also believe that national security goes beyond troops and weapons. The ability to sustain a defense production base and support the military in time of crisis is a crucial measure of America's national security -- and our strength as a nation.

Unfortunately, while much attention in recent years has appropriately been focused on building up America's defense network, unfair foreign competition has been allowed to cripple many industries necessary to support that defense effort.

The economic well-being of industries vital to national security -- such as steel, ferroalloys, chemicals, machine tools, semiconductors, and fiber optics -- must be as much of a national priority as the maintenance of strong armed forces.

For this reason, I have introduced legislation in the Senate -- the National Security Trade Act of 1986 -- that is designed to protect domestic defense industries from being under-

cut by foreign competition.

The legislation strengthens provisions in existing law to ensure that threatened industries have access to prompt consideration of their petitions for relief; to provide more options for relief; and to give the Secretary of Defense a larger role in determining whether imports of certain products are undermining national security.

Despite the fact that there are laws on the books to protect our defense industries, the administration has ignored them in favor of policies that are leading to the erosion of our defense production assets.

But ignoring the problem is not helping to resolve it. The government of the United States needs to know whether our national security is threatened as a result of imports, and how serious that threat is. Once an industry is gone, it is too late.

It is important to provide for a strong, well equipped military. But it is a dangerous policy to ignore the needs of America's basic defense industries while building up our defense forces. We should never forget that our manufacturing base is the backbone of our national security.

September 10, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Greening of West Virginia's Software Valley

The Software Valley movement -- launched in North-Central West Virginia just over a year ago -- is beginning to take root in areas of our state outside the Interstate-79 "corridor" that was originally envisioned as fertile territory for high technology businesses.

That is not surprising; high tech is such a booming and lucrative field that many areas of West Virginia can profit.

An examination of how West Virginia communities outside the software valley region can take part in high tech development will be the focus of "Software Valley IV," which I will co-sponsor on October 24 at the Mine Safety and Health Administration Academy in Beckley.

I am encouraged at the progress that has been made by the Software Valley movement in the 14 short months it has been in existence.

Three Software Valley conferences -- each of them held in Morgantown -- have attracted more than 1,000 West Virginians, who have taken part in discussions on what high tech has to offer the state and how interested West Virginians can get involved in high tech and computer software businesses.

Also, the non-profit, Morgantown-based Software Valley Corporation recently authorized the for-

mation of regional software valley chapters to generate interest across the state in high technology, and I was pleased when the Beckley area quickly applied for, and organized, the first such chapter.

In connection with that, the upcoming Beckley Software Valley conference will include presentations on how communities can set up their own software valley chapters and tap into the high-tech movement.

West Virginia's traditional strength has been its basic industries -- mining, steel, glass, chemicals, ferroalloys, and others. High technology is a new frontier for West Virginia, and, therefore, offers our state new avenues for economic prosperity.

I am encouraged by West Virginia's response to the Software Valley movement, and by the fact that so many West Virginians are expressing the interest, desire, and motivation needed to make West Virginia a magnet for high technology and computer software industries.

(West Virginians interested in attending Software Valley IV can make reservations by contacting MPL Corporation, Box 2226, Buckhannon, W.Va. 26201. A registration fee of \$35 -- which includes lunch -- must be paid in advance, and checks should be made payable to the Software Valley Corporation.)



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Escalating the War Against Drugs

October 6 will be an important day in our country as millions of Americans will focus on the dangers of drug and substance abuse.

"National Drug Abuse Education Day" -- mandated by Congress and backed by President Reagan -- might prove to be one of the most effective methods of turning the tide of ever-increasing drug use in our country.

Sadly, drug use is often glamorized -- movies depict casual drug use; television programs treat it in an offhand way; comedians joke about it.

No wonder so many of our young people have a distorted, romanticized view of drugs -- a view that seemingly does not include the many, many pitfalls of drug abuse, such as the risk to health; the impact on family and loved ones; the threat of jail; the possibility of serious injury or death.

National Drug Abuse Education Day's message will be simple: Drugs take so much, and offer nothing in return. That is the message that young Americans -- indeed, *all* Americans -- must have before they are faced with their friends or relatives urging them to try

an illegal drug.

Drug education is such an important element in the fight against drugs that recently, my Senate Democratic Task Force on Drug Abuse introduced legislation in the Senate that includes a \$150 million federal drug education program.

Through such a program, we hope to reach young people before it's too late.

Fighting our nation's drug problem is a big job -- and it will take more than education programs to beat it. Stiffer sentences for drug pushers and a concerted effort to stop the flow of drugs into our country are both elements of my working group's drug bill and both are necessary in our efforts to combat drug abuse.

First, though, we need to fix the nation's attention on the problem at hand and to convince young and old alike to join in the effort to reverse the growth of drug and substance abuse.

National Drug Abuse Education Day is a good step toward that goal, and a good way to kick-off the nationwide war against drugs.

September 24, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stepping Up the Campaign Against Terrorism

After a summer-long lull in international violence, the recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan, Turkey, and France offer a sobering reminder to Americans that terrorism remains a principal threat to human life and democratic values.

The violent end to the hijacking of Pan American flight 73 in Karachi, Pakistan; the murders of 22 worshippers in a synagogue in Istanbul, Turkey; and the epidemic of terrorist activities in Paris, France -- all of these underscore the continuing need for action against international terrorism and the grievances which inspire it.

West Virginians know that we cannot take our freedoms for granted. We recognize the fact that the United States must deepen its resolve to act in concert with our friends and allies to combat international terrorism.

As the most powerful nation in the free world, the United States should lead these efforts. It was for this reason that I offered an amendment to the Diplomatic Security Act several months ago encouraging increased cooperation among our NATO allies to combat terrorism.

That amendment, which was adopted by the Senate, urged the President to propose to our NATO

allies that the alliance should create a permanent committee to deal with terrorism.

In addition to encouraging government-to-government cooperation against terrorism, the United States must also step up its war against terrorism through all possible means -- diplomatic, political, economic, and, when appropriate, military.

To reinforce our ongoing antiterrorist campaign, I have urged the President to make antiterrorism cooperation a high priority subject of discussion in every new communication he has with any of America's friends and allies, and even to consider proposing a special antiterrorism summit meeting.

The Soviet Union -- which condemns terrorism but is suspected of providing material and political support for terrorist training -- must also be challenged to demonstrate its opposition to terrorism by cooperating with the United States and other civilized countries.

It is all too clear that Americans abroad are especially vulnerable to the violence of terrorists, but international terrorism ultimately affects all nations and all people. The United States must do all within its power to mobilize as many nations as possible in the campaign to eradicate terrorism.

October 1, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Averting Another Airline Tragedy

Several weeks ago in the skies above Los Angeles, the unthinkable occurred: a small plane strayed into the path of a passenger airliner, plunging both aircraft into a heavily populated neighborhood. At least 85 people lost their lives.

The Los Angeles crash is a tragic reminder of the declining margin of airline safety in our country. The worst has happened, and unless action is taken to tighten up on airline safety, I am afraid it will happen again.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill in the Senate to reexamine the nation's aviation safety policy.

That bill -- approved recently by the full Senate -- provides for an extensive look at the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) duties and at the impact of airline deregulation on aviation safety.

Specifically, it would establish a special commission to determine whether the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) -- which now has the duties of both ensuring aviation safety and promoting commercial aviation -- should be reorganized as an independent federal agency with only one responsibility: aviation safety.

My bill must now receive the approval of the House of Representatives.

The issue of airline safety is one that touches millions of Americans each

year, and so it is not surprising that the rapid decline in aviation safety in the last few years has evoked calls from many corners to do something to improve the system.

The statistics are frightening.

The FAA's own figures show that airline passengers today are nearly twice as likely to encounter an "aviation safety incident" -- the FAA's euphemism for close calls on the ground or in the air -- as they were 10 years ago.

The aviation system is operating with 4,000 fewer air traffic controllers than were on board only five years ago -- and in that time period, the workload has increased 78 percent.

The level of pilot experience has also declined. In 1983, for instance, a pilot for a major airline had an average of 2,342 hours in a jet aircraft. Only two years later -- in 1985 -- that average had dropped to 818 hours.

The time has come for a careful examination of our aviation safety system, and that is why I am eager to gain House approval for my legislation.

If action is not taken -- and taken soon -- it will only be a matter of time before we have another tragedy like the Los Angeles collision. Aviation safety is not something that will be enhanced by a laissez-faire, "business as usual" attitude. The time to act is now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Military Task Forces: A New Perspective on West Virginia

Last month, the U.S. Air Force sent a task force into West Virginia at my request to assess the potential for increasing Air Force activities in the state.

That task force has come back with a series of recommendations, including a proposal to locate a 50-member Air Force Reserve civil engineering squadron in West Virginia.

As a result of the task force survey, the Air Force also is increasing the number of security police at the Charleston and Martinsburg Air National Guard units and stepping up its construction schedule in the state.

The Air Force recommendations are only the latest developments in my ongoing effort to increase military activities in West Virginia.

For example, a U.S. Army task force that was sent into West Virginia at my request last year on a similar mission recommended several major initiatives -- which are currently being undertaken -- including the establishment of an active duty Army

training center at Camp Dawson in Preston County.

And the U.S. Navy is in the process of putting together a task force to send into West Virginia. The Naval Receiving Station at Sugar Grove in Pendleton County, which I secured in the mid-1960's, is a good example of how a land-locked state like West Virginia can contribute to the Navy's shore-based operations.

My intent in having these task forces sent into West Virginia is to expand the presence of the military in our state, and I am encouraged by the results thus far. This effort will continue to be a significant part of my ongoing work to increase defense spending in West Virginia.

West Virginia has a citizenry that is qualified, patriotic, hard-working, and dedicated. Above all, West Virginians have the enthusiasm and the willingness to work in partnership with the military to enhance America's national security.

October 15, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Your Vote Counts!

How many times have you heard the following Election Day excuse? "I didn't vote. My one vote won't make a difference anyway."

I have heard it more than once, and my response is invariably: "Your vote does and will make a difference."

On November 4, West Virginians and all Americans will have another opportunity to exercise one of the greatest privileges of U.S. citizenship: the privilege of casting a ballot in a general election.

West Virginians can be proud of the fact that we typically have a higher-than-average voter turn-out.

In 1984, for instance, approximately 72 percent of West Virginia's registered voters turned out on Election Day, a figure that was nearly 20 percent higher than the national turn-out.

But despite West Virginia's strong tradition of going to the polls, more than a quarter of West Virginia's voters decided to stay home on Election Day 1984, and nationwide, nearly 45 percent of all Americans decided to sit on the sidelines while ballots were cast.

To these Americans, I offer the following:

In our nation's history, at least four Presidential elections -- those of Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Harry Truman,

and John F. Kennedy -- hinged on less than one vote per precinct in one or two key states.

In the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon race, for instance, one Kennedy vote in each precinct in Illinois and New Jersey was enough to swing 43 electoral votes into the Kennedy column securing a victory for Kennedy in the Electoral College. Had those few Kennedy voters switched and voted for Nixon, the margin would have been enough to throw the election into the House of Representatives.

Similar small margins determined the outcome of the Cleveland, Wilson, and Truman races.

But beyond those demonstrations that a single vote does count is the fact that those people who do not vote give up the opportunity to exercise one of the most important privileges of a democratic society.

Through the ballot box, American voters have the power to select who will govern them. Voters have the ultimate say over the make-up of the U.S. Congress, state legislatures, local and county governments, state houses, and the highest office in the land, the Presidency.

That privilege -- that responsibility -- is too important to give up, and I hope all eligible West Virginians will take a few minutes to vote on November 4.

October 22, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Remembering the West Virginia Flood

One year ago this month, West Virginia was struck by one of the most devastating floods in its history. Dozens of lives were lost, livelihoods were destroyed, and property damage soared into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

West Virginia will bear the scars of the November 1985 flood for years to come, but as we remember the terrible ordeal of the disaster, what stands out most is the way in which West Virginians pulled together to help each other.

I visited many of the hardest hit communities in West Virginia immediately after the flood, and I saw first-hand not only the massive destruction of land and property but also the courage and compassion of West Virginians responding to the disaster.

My highest priority goal as a Senator from West Virginia in the weeks and months following the flood was to do everything possible to speed federal assistance to the victims of the flood.

To achieve that goal, I brought federal disaster relief officials with me into West Virginia on a number of trips so that they could see and comprehend the devastation, and take steps to help the state recover.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I fought for millions of dollars in emergency relief money for West Virginia, including funding to rechannel

streams and enhance flood protection, repair roads and bridges, and provide loans and grants to families and businesses. Over and over again, I pressed my case in the Senate for additional funding for West Virginia to help meet the staggering cost of the flood recovery effort.

As of a few weeks ago, the federal government had obligated more than \$325 million in disaster assistance for West Virginia.

And when I found instances in which the federal bureaucracy was dragging its feet and delaying the recovery effort with needless red tape, I dealt with the officials in charge and removed the roadblocks.

But no matter how thorough or well-intentioned the effort by federal, state, and local disaster relief workers, it is inevitable that some flood victims continue to face obstacles to full recovery.

If you or someone you know still needs help in dealing with a federal agency in regard to a flood-related problem, please let me know. Write to me -- U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd; United States Senate; Washington, D.C., 20510 -- and I will do my best to be helpful.

As we mark the anniversary of the West Virginia flood, it is encouraging to remember that West Virginians can and will continue to pull together to help one another.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funding:

A Winning Season for West Virginia

West Virginians from all walks of life will benefit from the 1987 federal funding bill that recently passed Congress and was signed into law by the President.

This measure contains millions of dollars for West Virginia -- nearly \$20 million in military construction projects alone.

It funds scores of programs vitally important to our state, including work on the cancer center at West Virginia University, the black lung program, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. In terms of its impact on West Virginia, this may be the most far-reaching piece of legislation that Congress has acted on this year.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was instrumental in securing this funding for West Virginia, and in many instances in fighting to keep it in the bill.

Some of the key projects I worked to obtain for the state include the following:

- * \$19.5 million for military construction projects in West Virginia, including \$8.7 million for an active duty Army training facility at Camp Dawson, Preston County; \$5 million for improvements at the Martinsburg Air National Guard facility; \$5.2 million

for four construction projects at West Virginia's Allegheny Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County; and \$625,000 for work at the Charleston Air National Guard unit;

- * \$4 million for land acquisition, construction of a park headquarters, development of recreation areas, and operating costs at the New River Gorge National River, headquartered in Fayette County;

- * \$4.5 million for phase II construction of a new statewide cancer research and treatment center to be located at WVU in Morgantown;

- * \$1.5 million to hire eight more administrative law judges to help eliminate the backlog of black lung claims. This funding will augment the \$3.5 million I obtained last year to hire 15 additional judges;

- * \$1.5 million to complete the installation of a federal flood warning system in West Virginia;

- * \$8 million to fund the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, which will provide first-year college scholarships worth \$1,500 each to outstanding academic achievers; and

- * \$105 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission, including \$45 million I obtained for ARC highway programs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Superfund: A Formula for Success

The identification and cleanup of America's abandoned toxic waste sites under the Superfund program is one of this nation's most important environmental advances.

For this reason, I was pleased that the President recently abandoned his threat of a veto and signed into law legislation passed by Congress that extends and expands the Superfund program.

The key to the success of this legislation is the funding mechanism adopted by Congress: not only is the formula fair and equitable, but it also averts a catastrophe for West Virginia's chemical, steel, and oil and gas industries.

Under the new Superfund program -- a \$9 billion program -- toxic waste cleanup will be financed through a broad-based combination of corporate, petroleum, and feedstock taxes combined with general revenues.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified a variety of responsible parties at Superfund sites nationwide. These include more than 30 industries, such as electronics, furniture, farm and industrial equipment, aircraft and aerospace, computers, papers and packaging products, communications, and textiles.

Furthermore, EPA has indicated that petroleum and chemical companies combined cause no more than 15 percent of the pollution found at Superfund sites.

In view of this evidence, I am pleased that efforts I supported to block adoption of a straight toxic waste tax were successful.

Such a tax would have proved devastating to West Virginia's basic industries, and it would have prompted the shutdown of chemical, steel, and other plants in West Virginia.

The sources of hazardous waste are diverse, so the money to clean up Superfund sites should come from a variety of sources. The funding formula contained in this Superfund bill not only distributes the cost burden equitably, but it also avoids being detrimental to our trade situation.

West Virginia's basic industries are facing ever increasing competition from foreign imports. The new Superfund financing mechanism recognizes the importance of maintaining the ability of our industries to compete in both the domestic and international marketplaces. That makes this program good for our country, and good for West Virginia.

November 12, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal: America's Energy Future

In the mid-1970's, America learned the painful lesson of relying too heavily on foreign energy supplies.

Unfortunately, it seems today that many Americans are forgetting that lesson. According to the Department of Energy, oil imports are up more than 17 percent over last year, and our domestic oil industry is in severe economic trouble.

Although the present worldwide oil surplus has driven down prices and increased demand, the situation is likely to be short-lived. We must remember that this surplus is not based on the discovery of any vast new reserves of oil or natural gas.

Americans will be the ultimate losers if we ignore our domestic energy resources -- including coal -- in favor of unreliable sources of imported fuel.

Coal has played a major role not only in the economy of West Virginia but also in the overall development of America. Our abundant domestic resources dictate that coal will remain the cornerstone of this nation's energy future.

That is why I developed the Clean Coal Tech-

nology Program, which is designed not only to increase the use of coal but also to be an attractive middle-ground that environmentalists, coal producers, and coal users alike can support.

Recently, at my request, Congress directed the Department of Energy to seek a second round of clean coal technology proposals specifically aimed at upgrading existing plants with advanced technologies.

The benefits of the clean coal program, in addition to increased coal use, will be lower costs and cleaner air for all Americans.

America must continue to wean itself from imported fuels. For my part, I will continue to oppose any short-sighted legislative initiatives that encourage the United States to depend excessively on unreliable foreign sources of fuel.

The Clean Coal Technology Program can play a major role in helping this nation realize the promise of our domestic coal industry. Our national security requires that we have a dependable energy supply in the event of a sudden national emergency.

November 19, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Trade Policy: Unfinished Business

In 1980, America enjoyed a trade surplus -- we were selling our foreign trading partners \$20 billion more in American goods than we were buying from them.

Just six years later, America's trade situation has been turned upside-down.

A \$20 billion surplus in 1980 has become a projected \$170 billion trade shortfall in 1986, and our country has been thrown into a trade crisis of unimagined proportions.

Consider that between 1981 and 1983 -- a two-year period -- over 1.1 million export-related jobs in our country were lost.

The country's basic industries -- steel, ferroalloys, coal, automobiles, and others -- have seen foreign imports eat into more and more of the domestic market. In steel's case, for instance, foreign nations have gobbled up more than 27 percent of the domestic market, costing tens of thousands of jobs.

Even our country's agricultural exports -- traditionally one of our strongest exporting industries -- have declined by 26 percent since 1980. The cost in human terms? Our country has become a net **importer** of agricultural products, and in the process, thousands of U.S. farms have gone bankrupt.

As foreign imports ravage our nation's econo-

my, the current Administration has taken the approach that the best trade policy for the country is to do nothing.

That approach is not only ill-advised, but it is damaging to our country's long-term economic well-being.

Helping to develop an effective trade policy for our country will continue to be one of my top priorities when Congress meets again in January.

A sound trade policy for our country means not only developing policies that will open foreign markets to U.S. goods and that will make America more competitive. It also means taking into consideration things like world debt -- particularly Third World debt -- international banking, and other parts of the world trade equation.

Our government -- this Administration -- has an obligation to American workers and American industries to adopt policies that open up world markets to our goods and that promote an open and fair world trade system in which our industries have a chance to **compete** and in which American jobs will stop being lost to foreign workers.

That is the unfinished business of this Administration and of the last Congress, and I hope to see that situation remedied in the Congress to come.

November 26, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Learning a New Language

West Virginians -- in the sixteen months since the founding of the Software Valley Corporation -- have become more familiar than most Americans with what might be one of the fastest-growing segments of the computer software field -- the Ada high-order computer programming language.

Developed several years ago, the Ada computer language has enjoyed phenomenal growth recently, primarily because of a Defense Department directive mandating that the computers that drive the nation's major weapons systems be Ada-compatible.

Prior to the Ada mandate, military contractors working on weapons systems used the computer software of their choice. Consequently, military programmers could not service more than one weapons system because of the unique computer software that each used.

The common Ada programming of all our weapons systems will mean that servicing costs -- and thus our defense budget -- will decrease, and it will mean that one weapons system will be able to communicate with another via the Ada language.

All of this translates into a \$20-billion-a-year Ada business by the year

1990, and we hope that West Virginia will have the inside track on the jobs that that business will provide.

I think that West Virginia is already headed in that direction. Recently, our state was the site of the largest-ever Ada programming language convention, a three-day event I was pleased to co-sponsor that drew more than 2,500 participants from across the nation to the Charleston Civic Center.

The convention -- and the emergence of Ada programming courses at several of our state's colleges and universities -- could well provide the impetus needed to make West Virginia a national center for Ada language training.

Making West Virginia an Ada center of excellence is one of the top goals of the Software Valley Corporation, and if that dream becomes reality, it could mean jobs for West Virginians, and an economic boost for our state.

Through the efforts of the Software Valley Corporation, I hope that many West Virginians, in the years to come, will be "speaking" the Ada language, and will be enjoying the benefits that Ada-trained computer specialists are sure to be offered.

December 3, 1986



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Year in Review: Accomplishments of the 99th Congress

In a number of important areas, the 99th Congress has left a record of which it can be proud: landmark pieces of legislation that will have far-reaching impact well beyond the close of 1986.

I was pleased to play an active role in the formulation of many of these pieces of legislation, several of which have already begun to have a positive effect on West Virginia and the nation.

The omnibus drug bill -- approved by Congress shortly before it adjourned this fall -- comes to mind as one such piece of legislation.

Recognizing the tremendous problems our country faces with drug and substance abuse -- with an estimated 20 million regular users of marijuana, four million cocaine users, and a half-million heroin addicts -- Congress moved quickly to craft legislation to address those problems.

A key part of that bill -- drug education for young Americans -- was recently put into action by the Secretary of Education when he released funding for drug awareness programs in the 1987 school year. West Virginia will receive approximately \$1.3 million for such a program.

Another important bill approved this year was my airline safety legislation, which I hope will result in safer travel for all Americans.

As a West Virginian, I am acutely aware of the importance of a proficient, safe federal aviation system, especially for states like West Virginia with small airports, rugged ter-

rain, and unpredictable weather. My bill sets up a special commission to determine if the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is doing the best possible job in ensuring airline safety.

The 99th Congress will also be remembered for hammering out one of the largest overhauls of our nation's income tax system. I voted for the tax reform bill with some reluctance -- especially as it may affect the long-term health of our basic industries -- but in the final analysis I believe that the bill goes a long way toward making our tax system fairer to middle- and lower-income taxpayers.

Other legislative achievements of 1986 include extension of the Superfund program, which is aimed at cleaning up the nation's abandoned toxic waste sites; approval of a budget for next year that significantly cuts federal deficits; and continued support for a strong national defense, including research funding for the President's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Much of the work that the Senate undertook this year was performed under the watchful eye of the television camera, a result of the Senate's approval of my proposal for televised Senate proceedings.

TV in the Senate has prevented the Senate from becoming the invisible and unknown half of Congress, and I am pleased that through televised proceedings, the American people were able to witness some of the legislative debates of the 99th Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Year in Review: Accomplishments for West Virginia

A number of initiatives that I developed to benefit West Virginia -- some of which have been many months in the making -- moved forward during 1986, and I will continue to work for similar progress in the coming year.

The first of these is my Software Valley effort, a movement begun in mid-1985 to attract computer software and high-technology business and jobs to our state.

During 1986, two Software Valley conferences were held -- in Morgantown and Beckley -- with an emphasis on finding venture capital to set up West Virginia high-tech companies and on spreading the Software Valley movement beyond the Morgantown-I-79 corridor.

I am particularly excited about the latter development, especially since the Software Valley Corporation -- based in Morgantown -- voted this year to form regional Software Valley Chapters across West Virginia.

The Software Valley movement got another boost when we were able to land the largest-ever national Ada computer language convention, an event that was held in Charleston this past November.

Several Software Valley conferences are being planned for the coming months, and I hope the movement will continue to gather steam and generate new economic opportunities for our state.

I have also continued my work this year to bring more defense dollars and more jobs into our state.

At my request, the U.S. Army and Air Force have both sent special task forces into West Virginia to look at increasing their presence in the state, and the Navy is putting together a similar task force to travel to the state sometime early next year.

As a result of its trip to West Virginia, the Army task force recommended several major initiatives for our state, including the establishment of an active duty Army training center at Preston County's Camp Dawson. I was pleased when the Army recently awarded an \$8.7 million contract -- federal funding I was able to earmark -- for construction of that facility.

The Air Force task force has also recommended a series of initiatives for our state, including a proposal to locate a 50-member reserve civil engineering squadron in West Virginia.

In another area important to West Virginia, my clean coal technology program -- a federal-private sector effort to promote new and effective ways to use our coal -- moved forward when the government awarded its first contracts for clean coal projects, including one submitted by Weirton Steel.

I intend to work during this upcoming session of Congress to secure federal funding for a second round of clean coal projects, which I believe could help our country further its efforts to become energy independent.

Another area I concentrated on this year was that of rebuilding West Virginia following the flood of November, 1985.

Through the appropriations process, I was able to help channel more than \$325 million in federal disaster assistance to West Virginia, and though the recovery effort is not complete, we have made much progress since the state was struck by the worst flood in recent memory.

West Virginia -- and projects and programs to benefit our state -- will continue to be my focus when the 100th Congress convenes in January.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Renewing the Fight Against Acid Rain Controls

As Congress gears up to begin a new session, it is likely that proposals to control acid rain will once again be a major topic of debate.

Already, acid rain hearings are being planned in the Senate, with the possibility of legislation being reported as early as this spring.

I am concerned that the proponents of acid rain controls will make a determined effort this year to recast and broaden the debate in an effort to generate additional support for a new regulatory program.

Acid rain controls such as those proposed in the past could be devastating to coal-producing states like West Virginia, and I will continue my fight against such proposals.

For one thing, the available scientific evidence used to justify a costly acid rain control program remains ambiguous or incomplete. For example, scientists at the U.S. Energy Department's Sandia Laboratories just recently reported the discovery of a chemical process that holds the potential for controlling acid rain.

Additionally, the acid rain controls that have been proposed in the past would surely undermine the competitiveness of our domestic industries. In West Virginia, the Con-

gressional Budget Office estimates that the price of electricity in 1995 would be 150 percent higher for electricity consumers under the acid rain legislation introduced last year. In fact, estimates show that up to one-third of acid rain control compliance costs would be borne by U.S. industry through increased electricity rates.

At a time when we need to strengthen U.S. industrial competitiveness, the proponents of costly regulatory acid rain controls would be adding, across the board, to the production costs of U.S. industries, thereby reducing their ability to compete in world markets.

To avoid pitfalls like these, we need to explore positive, non-regulatory approaches to the problem of acid rain. That is why I established the Clean Coal Technology Program, which is designed to use coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Congress must not fail to take into account the impact that drastic new emissions reductions would have on people's lives -- on their jobs, their businesses, and their communities. It is imperative that we focus on solutions -- such as the Clean Coal Program -- that can balance environmental preservation and the economic well-being of communities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Looking Ahead to 1987: Issues Facing an Historic Congress

The recently convened 100th Congress will be an historic and memorable session as we mark not only the bicentennial of our country's Constitution, but also the 200th anniversary of the conception under our Constitution of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Ceremonies for both events are planned, including a meeting of the House and Senate in the City of Philadelphia in July 1987, the first time that the Congress has met outside of Washington since the spring of 1800.

I hope the 100th Congress will also be remembered as the Congress that tackled -- and solved -- a number of crucial national and international problems.

The first of these is our country's position in international trade, which, over the past six years of the current Administration, has deteriorated to the point that our country has amassed an estimated \$170 billion trade deficit for 1986 **alone**.

That trade deficit has resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of American jobs, and it has seriously weakened many of the basic industries upon which our country has relied.

Clearly, developing a national policy that re-establishes agriculture's competitiveness, that opens world markets to American

products, and that promotes a fair international trade network is one of the priorities of the coming Congress.

The 100th Congress will also concentrate on other areas that will contribute to our nation's future, such as education, energy programs to increase our country's self-sufficiency, development of a "lean, mean" national defense, and a federal budget that reduces deficits while protecting programs vital to America's prosperity.

Arms control and bettering our relations with the Soviet Union will also be a focus of the 100th Congress, and I hope that the Administration will make a resolution in 1987 to work with Congress to achieve those goals.

My personal agenda for the coming Congress will also include reform of our campaign financing system, which, as it is currently structured, gives special interests a disproportionate amount of influence in the government's decision-making processes.

Conducted against the backdrop of the bicentennial celebrations of the Congress and the Constitution, the 100th Congress promises to be a session packed with important and far-reaching issues that could have an impact on our lives today and on our children's lives.

January 7, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Purer Water and Cleaner Rivers for West Virginia

Over the last nearly two decades, the American people have made a strong commitment to ridding our streams, rivers, and lakes of toxic wastes and poisonous pollutants. In response to that popular commitment, Congress launched programs to clean up our waterways.

In West Virginia, those programs have been translated into building community wastewater and sewerage treatment plants, correcting acid drainage from many abandoned mines, and ending much industrial discharge into streams.

The job of cleaning up our streams and lakes is not finished, however. Knowing that, I joined my colleagues in the United States Senate and House of Representatives last year in the unanimous passage of the Water Quality Act of 1986.

Unfortunately, against the advice of members of his own party leaders, the President "pocket vetoed" that bill -- that is, he failed to sign it after Congress had adjourned last October.

Because that legislation is so vital to progress toward better water quality across our country and in West Virginia, I joined in introducing an identical bill -- the Water Quality Act of 1987 -- on the opening day of the 100th Congress.

Without quick enactment of such legislation, construction of many sewerage treatment plants will halt, millions of dollars

already spent on such construction might be lost, industries and towns facing cleanup deadlines could be fined for breaking environmental regulations, and the water from many of our lakes and streams would be left polluted.

The Clean Water legislation, on the other hand, will ensure that several West Virginia communities will be able to finish work on wastewater construction projects already approved or underway. Experience has shown that communities with sewerage and wastewater treatment systems are more likely to attract and hold new industries and businesses, and that such assets are essential if West Virginia's economy is to improve and if more jobs are to be created in our state. In addition, this bill will encourage the cleanup of stream pollution from abandoned mines in West Virginia.

Both Republican and Democratic Senators co-sponsored this new water quality bill, the result of over five years of research, testimony, and debate. Prospects for its passage in the Senate look good.

I hope that the Administration will join in this effort to continue improving the quality of our waterways. At stake for thousands of West Virginians and millions of Americans are cleaner rivers, streams, and lakes, for recreation, drinking, and commerce for generations to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Proposed Federal Budget And West Virginia

The President recently sent his Fiscal Year 1988 federal budget to Congress. In that budget are several items of interest -- and concern -- to West Virginia.

Among the bright spots in the President's budget are certain projects that I proposed and for which I requested federal funds, including FY '88 military-construction projects in West Virginia worth \$6.1 million, with another \$22.4 million in military construction in our state in FY 1989.

Another item proposes \$47.5 million for additions and improvements at one of my priority projects, the Huntington VA Medical Center.

In addition, the proposed federal budget allows spending \$350 million over five years to fund my national Clean Coal Technology program--for developing technologies to burn coal cleanly, thereby increasing the use of coal while, at the same time, reducing air pollution. Also, the budget includes \$8 million for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program, a nationwide effort to promote educational excellence.

Unfortunately, the President's budget would lop off certain current programs that are important to West Virginia's economic progress -- notably, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration, the Urban Development Action Grant program, and vocational training, among others. The budget also contains ill-advised proposals to tax black-lung benefits and cut veterans' medical benefits.

Eliminating programs such as these would hurt West Virginia -- just as an example, more than 80 percent of West Virginia high school students are involved in vocational education. West Virginians need such programs, and I intend to fight to preserve them, as well as to resist the taxing of black-lung benefits.

I am on record as favoring a balanced federal budget, and I am working to cut federal deficits. However, I am also committed to helping draft a fiscally responsible federal budget without short-changing programs needed to enhance education and employment opportunities for West Virginians.

January 21, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thwarting a Threat to American Democracy

America is in the midst of an election-campaign financing crisis.

In 1958, I ran for my first term in the United States Senate. Senator Jennings Randolph also ran that same year. Together, both of our campaigns totalled about \$50,000.

In 1986, however, the cost of Senate campaigns per candidate nationwide averaged about \$3 million each. Some Senate candidates spent well over \$10 million.

The consequences of such astronomical campaign price tags are several. No sooner have most Senators been sworn into office than they must launch fundraising efforts to pay for their next election campaigns. Largely through political action committees -- PAC's -- special interest groups make massive contributions to elect favored Senate candidates, giving such PAC's at least the appearance of an unhealthy influence over the election process. Because of such prodigious campaign expenses, many talented men and women of modest financial means are being discouraged from running for the Senate.

Serving in the Senate is a fulltime job, one that should not entail nonstop fundraising. Moreover, Senators should be answerable primarily to the constituents who elect them, and should not feel inordinantly obligated to political action committees or special interests. Voters, on the other hand, should not be denied choosing among qualified and talented

candidates because potential candidates cannot afford stratospheric campaign costs.

To put a brake on campaign costs and to introduce greater integrity into elections, I have joined Senator Boren of Oklahoma in introducing legislation to help reform campaign financing.

Among other proposals, our bill would set voluntary spending limits for Senate candidates in general elections in all states. Partial public funding from the existing voluntary federal income tax checkoff would be made available to Senate candidates who qualify. Funds from political action committees to candidates and campaigns would be further limited. Loopholes in current election laws permitting unfair financial influences by special interests and even foreign companies would also be closed or corrected.

Election to the United States Senate is one of the highest privileges and responsibilities to which any American can aspire. The office of United States Senator should not be for sale to the highest bidder, or subject to prejudicial financial influences. The legislation that Senator Boren and I have introduced is aimed at ensuring that the voters of West Virginia and other states have the clearest voices in deciding who their Senators will be, and that they can have the fullest confidence in the candidates whom they elect to serve.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Defense-Dollar Ranking

Recently, a myth has confused some West Virginians -- the myth that West Virginia ranks last among the states in obtaining defense dollars.

The myth does not square with the facts.

Certainly, defense industries do not come uppermost to mind when one thinks of West Virginia. Landlocked, our state cannot boast the vast shipbuilding facilities of Virginia, Maryland, or Massachusetts, for example. Likewise, West Virginia is not noted as an aircraft-industry center, as is California, with its incomparable high-technology resources; or for its tank factories, as is Michigan, the vortex of the U.S. automobile industry.

In fact, for better than a century, West Virginia's economy has rested primarily on its vast raw material and energy stores, and on its advantages for steel, glass, chemical, and other manufacturing.

However, many of these West Virginia products are defense-related, such as chemicals, and vast quantities of West Virginia coal, metals, and other products that are sold directly to the military, or major primary defense contractors that manufacture military weapons and equipment.

Annually, the Pentagon and Department of Defense (DOD) publish a comprehensive and authoritative projection of future defense dollars to be spent on a state-by-state basis. The projection is called the Defense Economic Impact Modeling System (DEIMS).

The DEIMS includes defense dollars paid directly to primary contractors, DOD payrolls, military construction figures, and to defense subcontractors.

The DEIMS projections for 1987 in West Virginia are encouraging. According to 1987 DOD projections, West Virginia will rank 44th among the states in direct defense-related purchases. Moreover, our state is projected to rank 39th in the total sum of defense spending, including direct purchases, subcontracts, construction, and payrolls.

Many West Virginia manufacturers found helpful the DOD procurement conferences that I have held over the past two years in Charleston, Morgantown, and Washington, as well as the defense trade fair I held in the state capital. At those well-attended conferences, I assembled DOD and defense-industry experts who explained to West Virginia business people how to obtain defense contracts, and who also explained DOD product and service requirements.

This year, I plan to hold such defense procurement conferences in Huntington, Logan, Bluefield, and other cities, as well as additional Software Valley conferences. Anyone wanting more information on those conferences, or seeking help in pursuing defense-related contracts, should feel free to contact me, either at my Washington office (Telephone: 202-224-3954), or my Charleston office (Telephone: 304-342-5855).



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Assisting One of Our Most Important Professions

Educating the young -- teaching children -- is one of the most important duties that one generation owes to the next.

But teaching does not take place in a vacuum. Children bring into a classroom with them a battery of influences and perspectives with which a teacher has to compete every day -- influences many of which were unknown but a few years ago. Television, computers, space exploration, youth culture, trips overseas, part-time jobs, air travel -- many of today's students have experienced these, studied them, or been influenced by them. As a result, the classroom may offer scant stimulation by comparison.

Likewise, schoolroom studies -- math, science, literature, and social studies -- are constantly growing and changing. Decade by decade, knowledge multiplies. Periodic studies of student achievement in many foreign countries demonstrate that boys and girls in those countries often outperform American students in many fields of study. That is a sinister and disappointing fact that should concern all Americans.

Our society has laid on our teachers an enormous burden. We need to provide our teachers every possible assistance in helping them to teach our children, and to impart to young people the

knowledge that they must have to compete in this world, as well as to keep our country strong and free in years to come.

To that end, I have introduced a bill to establish teacher training programs across the country, in which veteran teachers might expand their teaching skills and gain mastery over the latest advances in their major fields of teaching -- the Teachers Skills Enhancement Act of 1987.

Locally created and locally controlled, such teacher training programs would serve as demonstrations and laboratories for teachers to discover new ways to stimulate and inspire students to learn. Veteran teachers would be able to devote their full energies to such training programs in the weeks in which they would be enrolled, with substitute teachers temporarily assuming the veterans' duties at their regular teaching posts.

My teacher-training program proposal has the support of a wide array of educators and professional teachers' organizations. At a time when schools and public education are coming under increased attention, I hope that my bill will assist our teachers to accomplish some of the most important tasks that any men and women are doing anywhere in our society.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Progress in the Software Valley Movement

A little more than a year-and-a-half ago, I hosted the first Software Valley Conference in Morgantown.

The Software Valley movement -- spearheaded by the non-profit Software Valley Corporation -- is a concerted effort to lay the foundations for high-technology and computer software industries in West Virginia.

This month, on February 11th, with more than three hundred fifty in attendance, I hosted the fifth Software Valley Conference, this one also in Morgantown.

In the short months since its launching, the Software Valley movement has taken encouraging root in West Virginia, drawing the participation and interest of business people from many sections of our state.

The positive response of more and more West Virginians to the Software Valley movement is a good sign, and bodes well for our state's progress into the age of high technology, as well as into new economic, business, and job opportunities for West Virginia.

The Software Valley V Conference was an occasion for unveiling several concrete and promising high-tech advances linked to the Software Valley movement.

NASA administrator James Fletcher, for example, announced that West Virginia University has been named one of the space agency's 50 technology utilization centers. NASA will install two computer terminals at WVU, giving the university and private West Virginia firms no-cost access to years of NASA-related research and information, ranging from

Also attending the conference, representatives of the Harris Corporation of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, announced the donation of a \$500,000 state-of-the-art super mini-computer for research use in WVU's software engineering program.

The Harris Corporation further stated that it will invest \$500,000 in a similar computer to link WVU to Carnegie-Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute in Pittsburgh, giving West Virginia University and West Virginia firms a vital added connection to national defense possibilities.

In addition, West Virginia University announced the establishment of a University-Industry Research and Development Center through which, in conjunction with the Software Valley movement, it can assist in developing an atmosphere in which software companies can grow and flourish, and through which the University can help basic West Virginia industries to streamline their operations and become more competitive.

Another highlight of the Software Valley V Conference was the revelation that the giant IBM Corporation has joined our state's Software Valley movement, and will be lending the movement one of its executives for one year to help promote software technology.

These developments confirm my faith in West Virginia as a home for high-technology businesses. I hope that more West Virginians will involve themselves in our Software Valley movement, as together we open more doors for a growing high-tech future for our



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Impending New Cancer Center

The American Cancer Society estimates that this year -- 1987 -- approximately 4,300 West Virginians will die of cancer, and that another 8,400 West Virginians will learn for the first time that they have developed cancer.

That is a tragic prediction.

Indeed, cancer is the second leading cause of death in West Virginia, and statistics of deaths attributable to cancer are rising in our state.

Because of these circumstances, large numbers of West Virginia cancer sufferers must travel long distances every year to obtain specialized treatment and care in out-of-state cancer centers.

Realizing the pain and despair wrought in our state by cancer, I proposed, won approval of, and have obtained \$8.8 million in federal funds for, the establishment and construction of a major new regional cancer treatment and research center in West Virginia.

In memory of the late wife of former U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph, that cancer center is to be called the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center. Mrs. Randolph was herself a victim of cancer.

Associated with the West Virginia University Medical Center, the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center will be built in Morgantown, with construction to begin this summer.

With floor space of more than 15,000 square feet, the planned cancer center will promote basic

research on the causes, spread, treatment, and cure of cancer in West Virginia and the surrounding region. The center will provide the best clinical care for cancer patients in West Virginia and neighboring areas, and will educate and train doctors and other health-care professionals to work with cancer patients. It will also develop informational programs to make available to physicians and health-care institutions in West Virginia and nearby jurisdictions state-of-the-art techniques for diagnosing, treating, and rehabilitating cancer patients.

Cancer is one of the scourges of modern life, with causes rooted, insofar as we now know, in lifestyle, diet, hereditary dispositions, and environmental and workplace factors, to name but a few suggested culprits. Once a tragedy so threatening that people were reluctant to utter its name in public, cancer is today, however, increasingly treatable, curable, and survivable. Moreover, research scientists and cancer specialists predict that more and more forms of cancer will be conquered in the years ahead.

That is hopeful news. As new developments in cancer treatment become available, I want West Virginians to have at convenient proximity the finest facilities possible for fighting that disease.

To that purpose the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center will be dedicated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping Essential Air Service in West Virginia

The mass transportation mode-of-choice for most Americans is the airplane.

Because of that, reasonable access to adequate air transportation is one of the plusses for which business and industry executives look when they consider locating plants and outlets in a state or community.

No state can sustain major economic growth without good connections to America's air transportation network.

Consequently, adequate air transportation is vital if West Virginia is to move ahead and develop economically.

For that reason, I am co-sponsoring legislation to continue our nation's Essential Air Service program. That program was started in 1978 when airline deregulation ended air service to many small and moderate-sized communities. The program is scheduled to end next year.

Under the Essential Air Service program, the federal Department of Transportation subsidizes basic air service to airports that cannot guarantee ridership adequate to attract air carriers without subsidies, and that are more than an hour's drive from a major "hub" airport, such as those at Washington, Pittsburgh, or Charlotte, North Carolina.

Currently, five West Virginia air centers --

Morgantown, Clarksburg/Fairmont, Elkins, Beckley, and Bluefield/Princeton -- receive airline service subsidized under the Essential Air Service program.

A large percentage of West Virginia's population lives within a near radius of these five airports. In addition, some of West Virginia's major educational and financial institutions, research facilities, industries, and tourist attractions depend upon these airports for their success, service, and growth.

Without the subsidies offered by the Essential Air Service program, maintaining commercial airline service into these airports would be difficult, if not impossible.

Given the economic problems that West Virginia has endured in recent years--as well as the new economic opportunities on which enterprising West Virginians are working in several parts of our state -- West Virginia cannot afford to lose current levels of airline service.

The airline service legislation that I am co-sponsoring will ensure that we have air service at several important West Virginia airports well into the future.

West Virginians need safe, reliable airline service.

Keeping and improving that air service will continue to be one of my top priorities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Acid Rain and Clean Coal Technology

For more than a decade, "acid rain" has been a growing environmental concern.

Some people have asserted that coal-burning is producing a caustic rainfall that kills trees, and turns lakes and streams into acid baths in which fish can no longer live.

Alarmed, some experts have called for immediate and drastic remedies to the perceived acid-rain problem, many of which "remedies" would be immensely expensive, and could have a devastating impact on our economy and our way of life.

Heeding the acid-rain warnings, in 1980, at my urging, Congress put into place an acid-rain research program.

Though not yet completed, this research program has already reported some important findings.

First, we are neither suffering an acid-rain emergency, nor are we headed toward the environmental Armageddon that some alarmists have predicted.

For instance, less than 1% of the lakes in the eastern United States show significant acid content, and none of our western lakes are acidified. Also, factors other than fossil-fuel emissions seem to be damaging forests and trees. Likewise, instead of panicking, the research program recommends thoughtful, measured, and well-researched approaches to rendering smokestack emissions cleaner.

I, too, want to

eliminate any potential negative effects that acid precipitation may cause.

But I am also concerned that we not rush into position the questionable, outdated, regulatory, and prohibitively expensive pollution control systems now under consideration. In an effort to remedy a problem that may not exist, these control systems threaten to cripple large segments of our economy, skyrocket our electric bills, and needlessly cost the jobs of thousands of workers in states like West Virginia.

Against those possibilities, in 1984, I proposed, and Congress adopted, a \$750 million Clean Coal Technology program. This program promises to achieve, among other goals, long-term, real reductions in industrial emissions that might contribute to acid rain.

The Department of Energy has already selected nine projects to be brought on line. Demonstration efforts, these nine projects will use coal in a variety of clean-burning technical processes to produce electricity on an industrial level.

These nine model projects give evidence of reducing coal-originated pollution in excess of any of the other anti-pollution technologies now in use. The success of these nine new plants would go far toward cutting pollution, and in giving West Virginia coal widespread new markets and uses.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Returning the Congressional Pay Raise

Congressional salaries have been a problem since the birth of our country.

In 1789, the wage paid to each member of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives was \$6 per day.

The Constitution placed on Congress the ultimate authority for setting its own compensation.

That may help to explain why, during the 198 years of its existence, Congress has only received twenty-two pay raises, one of which it repealed.

Expecting someone to set his or her own salary is to impose an uncomfortable duty, especially for political officeholders.

In 1967, Congress sought partially to ease some of that burden by establishing a quadrennial salary commission to recommend salary scales for Congress, and also for the vice-president, federal judges, members of the president's Cabinet, and many other highly placed federal officials. The commission makes its recommendations to the President, who then proposes salary figures for Members of Congress and those other officials.

Unless the President's proposals are officially rejected by both the Senate and House, the proposed salaries go into effect.

The quadrennial salary commission, which bases its recommendations on comparable salaries in the business and private sector, in 1986 proposed that each Cabinet officer's salary be nearly doubled, from \$88,800 to \$160,000. The commission also rec-

ommended that the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court be paid \$175,000 (up from the current \$111,700), and the deputy librarian of Congress and the assistant architect of the U.S. Capitol each be paid \$120,000.

The commission proposed that Senators and Congressmen be paid \$135,000.

In December of last year, instead of endorsing the commission's recommendations, President Reagan proposed lower, 16-percent per annum salary raises for the affected positions. The President's recommendations raised the salaries of Senators and Congressmen to \$89,500.

On January 29th of this year, the Senate rejected the recommended raises by a vote of 88-6. The House of Representatives, however, delayed voting on the President's proposed raises past the legal deadline. Consequently, the pay raises recommended by the president went into effect.

I voted against the pay raise. I shall return my salary increase -- minus the income tax that I shall owe on it -- to the Treasury, for the remainder of this Congress.

That action does not solve the 200-year-old dilemma of setting Congressional salaries, of course. Perhaps Congress could eliminate the quandary of having to vote on its own remuneration by providing that such salary increases not take effect until a future Congress.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Curbing the Disastrous Foreign Trade Deficit

The United States was once the world's leading exporting country.

Today, however, the United States is in the midst of a monumental foreign trade crisis.

Last year, our trade deficit hit \$170 billion.

Worse, economists have warned of another \$170 billion trade deficit this year.

As a result of such deficits, the United States is currently the world's number one debtor nation.

Add to that trade debt the lost jobs, closed mines, and boarded-up factories into which the trade deficit translates in states like West Virginia, and one begins to get a clearer idea of the significance of the current trade disaster in which we find ourselves.

More ominously, we are losing our trading lead not only in the area of traditional heavy industries, but also along the new frontiers of high technology -- a field in which the United States was once the unquestioned pioneer.

Time and again, Congress has tried to get the federal administration to take action to turn our trade situation around. In almost every instance, however, the administration has denied that a trade problem exists, has argued that laissez-faire market processes will eventually correct the problems, or has ridiculed Congress as being "protectionist."

If the administration is unwilling to assert the needed leadership to bolster our economy, Congress is not unwilling to

supply such leadership. Both as the Senate Majority Leader and as a Senator from West Virginia, trade is one of my top priorities.

Just the other day, when statistics indicated that Japan was not living up to a joint agreement on exporting computer semiconductors to the United States, I joined in supporting the adoption of a Senate resolution calling on the administration to enforce that semiconductor agreement strictly. Operating in high-tech weapons systems, semiconductors are vital components in a strong national defense.

That resolution was adopted 93-0.

That should indicate the mood of Congress toward reversing our trade deficit.

Currently, several committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate are putting together legislation to boost American exports and enhance competitiveness by our domestic industries.

Congress is determined to do what it can to encourage greater growth of our share of the world market, and to increase job opportunities in American industries.

I intend to see that the Senate sends a comprehensive trade bill to the White House for the President's signature this year.

I know that all Americans are eager to see our foreign trade crisis ended, and that they will support the effort to make the United States the world's leading exporting country again.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Reward for Excellence in Education

In the late 1950's, the Soviet Sputnik triumph warned the United States that we were lagging dangerously in technology and space research.

Sputnik so jolted Americans that we put our priorities in order, and, by the end of the 1960's, became the first nation to land people on the moon.

Recent losses in world and domestic marketplaces to our foreign competitors have sounded new alarm bells.

More and more Americans are realizing that quality of production and quality of performance are often the differences between winning and losing customers.

Excellence matters, no matter what one is judging.

Today, America is reawakening to the need for excellence -- excellence in everything that we do, and excellence as the best guarantee of quality.

Habits are set early in life. If a young man or woman is to perform or achieve to his or her highest possibility, the habit of achieving excellence must be nurtured from an early age.

To foster excellence among young West Virginians and young Americans, last year I proposed and won passage of a national honors scholarship program. Under this program, a number of federally underwritten college scholarships will be made avail-

able in every state. At \$1500 each, these scholarships will be awarded to those students who have shown outstanding academic achievement in high school, and have been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education. These scholarships are based solely on merit, and are for the first year of study for a one-year period. The scholarships are not renewable.

The first of these scholarships will be awarded this year -- in number totalling 4,763. By a formula based on student population, forty-one scholarships will be given to meritorious West Virginia college freshmen.

In a gracious gesture, my Senate colleagues, at the behest of Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, voted to call this effort to encourage academic excellence officially the "Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship" program. The winning students will be known as "Byrd Scholars."

I am particularly proud of this scholarship program. I hope that, in years to come, students all across West Virginia and the United States will strive to achieve the excellence demanded to earn academic distinction as Byrd Scholars, and that the level of excellence will become theirs throughout their lives.

April 1, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Highway Dollars for West Virginia

The Senate recently joined the House of Representatives in passing -- over a White House veto -- the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1987.

That is good news for West Virginia, and comes in time to ensure approximately 6,000 jobs in our state at the start of the building season in construction and related industries.

Included in this highway bill are funds totalling more than \$100 million for a variety of West Virginia road, bridge, and other transportation projects.

Specifically, this bill provides \$14.1 million toward construction of the New River Parkway -- a scenic route planned to draw tourist dollars and jobs into the Hinton area -- and \$1.6 million toward building the Chelyan Bridge in Kanawha County.

Further, I have requested that Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole give preference to funding replacement of the dilapidated Sixth Street Bridge in Huntington from special funds contained in the new highway bill.

Other West Virginia projects to be funded from this bill will be selected by the state highway department.

Putting this highway bill together was a demanding but necessary task that took several months of negotiation and study by the Congress.

The last major highway bill was passed in 1982. Because of the complexity and legal constraints of writing highway

bills, several states were running out of funds previously allotted for projects. As a result, many long-planned projects and projects under construction faced shutdowns.

Economists estimated that nearly 800,000 jobs would have been lost across the nation if the highway bill had failed to pass. Some experts also predicted that such a loss of jobs would have thrown our country into a recession.

Nationally, the highway bill calls for spending nearly \$88 billion for highway and transportation programs over a five-year period.

Opponents of the bill charged that it was a "budget-buster."

In fact, this bill is not only within the limits of this year's budget resolution, but 86 percent of the funding for this bill is already in the Highway Trust Fund.

The Highway Trust Fund is specifically set aside for meeting highway and transportation needs, and is supported by the 9-cent-a-gallon federal gasoline tax that Americans pay every time they drive up to a gasoline pump.

In effect, the highway bill is a means by which Washington returns to American drivers the money that belongs to them, in the form of safer, better roads, bridges, and transportation systems -- improvements so vital to creating jobs and ensuring economic growth and progress in states like West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Clean Coal Technology Act of 1987

Currently, millions of Americans are reflecting on two energy-related concerns -- future availability of reasonably priced energy resources, and solutions to the environmental phenomenon called "acid rain."

In addition, residents of coal-rich states like West Virginia are concerned that efforts to solve the acid rain problem could spell widespread unemployment and economic disaster in those states.

I recently introduced legislation in the United States Senate aimed at responding to all of those concerns -- the Clean Coal Technology Deployment Act of 1987.

Three years ago, I sponsored legislation that launched the federal clean coal technology program. That program has successfully demonstrated a number of innovative coal-use technologies that had previously shown small-scale promise, but that were not yet ready for commercial-scale application -- technologies such as the coal-burning fluidized-bed boiler, for example.

The success of the clean coal technology program has made clear that a number of new technologies are now ready for commercial application.

Though enthusiastic, most utility companies on their own do not possess the resources to risk launching such massive first-time commercial use

of these technologies unaided.

My Clean Coal Technology Deployment Act would encourage the commercial deployment by the utility industry of clean coal technologies by providing \$3.5 billion in matching grants over a ten-year period.

Claiming an acid rain crisis, Canadian environmentalists are demanding immediate regulatory action that would mandate pollution reductions from power plants. The most-suggested regulation is expensive smokestack scrubbers.

Latest research demonstrates, however, that there is no acid rain emergency. Whatever the acid rain problem is, we still have time to solve it without being stampeded into ineffective and expensive regulatory programs. Such programs would add billions of unnecessary dollars to electric bills in West Virginia, and could boost unemployment in northern West Virginia by 17 percent.

On the other hand, my approach would reduce future costs of electricity production; cut long-term pollution from coal-powered utility plants even more than the suggested alternatives; ensure vitality and jobs in the West Virginia coal industry; and provide America with an abundant, reasonably priced, and secure energy supply long into the future.

April 15, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Scores High in Federal Highway Bill

Congress recently passed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1987 over the President's veto.

Because of the complex formula by which federal funds from this bill are allocated on a state-by-state basis, some people have spread misinformation about West Virginia's share of these funds.

In total, over a five year period, West Virginia will receive more than \$670 million from this legislation.

Now that the highway bill is law, the federal government will allot to the states roughly \$13.5 billion annually over that five year period.

Of the \$13.5 billion annual allotment, West Virginia will receive yearly about \$105.9 million for specific highway and bridge projects, plus an additional \$25 million for other projects to be built at state discretion.

Further, the highway bill authorizes approximately \$15.6 million for the Chelyan Bridge in Kanawha County and the New River Gorge Parkway.

This money will be dispersed from the federal highway trust fund, which was established in 1956, the funds of which come from the nine-cents-per-gallon federal excise tax that automobile and truck drivers pay at the gasoline pump.

West Virginia's allotment from this bill is more generous than that of most states. Our state's population is about eight-tenths of one percent of the U.S. to-

tal, but West Virginia is to receive nearly one percent of the funds included in this bill.

In 1985, West Virginia got back \$2 for every \$1 it paid in federal gasoline taxes. Cumulatively, since 1956, West Virginia has gotten back \$2.65 for every dollar it paid into the highway trust fund.

Only six other states received a better return on their gas tax dollars in 1985, and, cumulatively, since 1956, only three other states have gotten back more for their gas tax dollars than has West Virginia.

The highway bill authorizes the distribution of approximately \$87.5 billion of federal funds to the fifty states and the District of Columbia for highway and bridge construction, and mass transportation projects -- subways and urban rail systems, for example -- over the five-year period.

Of the total sum, \$68.6 billion will be directed toward highway and bridge construction over the five years.

The federal Department of Transportation distributes funds from the federal highway trust fund by a complicated mandated formula.

Factors determining how much each state receives include population and total miles of interstate highway.

These facts should help to correct some of the confusion caused by the recent misinformation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Budget: Rhetoric versus Reality

One of the most pressing economic problems currently facing our country is the combination of continuing record federal deficits and the soaring national debt.

By 1980, the national debt -- the total owed to its creditors by the federal government -- had mounted to \$998.8 billion. Accumulating that debt had taken over 190 years and the administrations of 39 presidents.

In just the six years from 1981 to 1986, however, the national debt more than doubled to \$2.1 trillion.

During those six years, there have been unprecedented deficits -- a \$128 billion deficit in 1982, followed by a \$208 billion deficit in 1983, a \$185 billion deficit in 1984, a \$212 billion deficit in 1985, and a \$221 billion deficit in 1986.

As a result of such mounting deficits, simply paying interest on the national debt now consumes roughly 37 cents out of every individual income tax dollar paid -- \$139 billion in FY 1987.

Economic experts declare that America's national debt and the continuing deficits are looming threats against our country's future security and prosperity. Several economists have further counseled that some revenue increases will be essential to regaining control of deficits and to taming the national debt.

Against that advice, the administration has claimed steadfastly that it

will veto any revenue increases that Congress sends it.

Simultaneously, those in Congress of either party suggesting even modest tax increases to help reduce deficits are attacked by the administration as reckless and irresponsible.

Paradoxically, the President's own proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1988 contains over \$22 billion in increased revenues, including \$6.1 billion in new or added taxes.

Among those increased revenues and new taxes are added fees on FHA and VA home loans; national park entrance fees up to ten dollars per vehicle; new fees for processing guaranteed student loans; a new international ticket tax on travelers exiting or entering the country; extending Medicare taxes to more payroll checks; charging fuel taxes to many now-exempt transit companies; increased excise taxes on coal; and a tax on black-lung payments.

With such added taxes and revenue increases, one wonders if the President would be willing to extend his veto pledge to his own budget if it were passed intact by Congress.

No one likes taxes. But many concerned Americans hope that, for the sake of America's future economic well-being, the administration will lay aside demagogic tactics, and join Congress in a serious cooperative effort to reduce deficits and to put a brake on the national debt.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Defense Dollars for West Virginia

Earlier this year, the Department of Defense estimated that, in 1987, West Virginia would rank 39th among the states in the total of federal defense dollars spent by the federal government in each state.

That ranking represents a significant and encouraging advance in winning a greater share of defense dollars for our state, and I am pleased that my ongoing efforts to interest the Pentagon in West Virginia's defense potential continue to bear dividends.

But ranking 39th in total defense-dollar receipts does not spell the limit of West Virginia's national defense possibilities.

Last month, West Virginia's defense future again expanded.

At my request, the U.S. Army some months ago sent a task force into our state to identify new opportunities for Army presence in West Virginia.

As a partial result of that task force effort, just prior to Easter, I received word of the Army's decision to locate six new Army Reserve units in West Virginia, with a combined projected annual economic impact of nearly \$6 million.

The reserve units, their locations, and their fiscal years of activation are as follows:

- a 59-member Headquarters Detachment of the 3rd Brigade, 80th Training

Division, Charleston, FY 1988;

- a 128-member 3rd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Charleston, FY 1988;

- a 128-member 2nd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Beckley, FY 1988;

- a 218-member 396th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company, Logan, FY 1988;

- a 99-member 473rd Medical Company ground ambulance unit, Ripley, FY 1988;

- a 90-member Army Reserve 91st Military Intelligence Company, Morgantown, FY 1989.

These military units will provide new opportunities for West Virginians to serve in the Army Reserve, and will, at the same time, raise West Virginia's military profile among the states.

Army officials have also agreed to my request to accelerate the construction schedule of more than \$12 million-worth of regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard projects in West Virginia over the next three fiscal years.

I am committed to increasing West Virginia's role in America's national defense network. I shall continue working with the Defense Department to obtain more military dollars for our state.

May 6, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Danger in the Skies

How safe is commercial air travel today?

For 1986, the Federal Aviation Administration reported 839 midair near-collisions involving commercial airline flights in U.S. air space -- an average of greater than two potential air disasters every day.

Each of those near-hits included airliners passing within less than 500 feet of other aircraft -- 85 percent of which were smaller general aviation planes.

In the first third of 1987, the total of midair near-collisions reported to the FAA already exceeded 235.

Several years ago, "government deregulation" was a popular slogan.

Certainly, airline deregulation has yielded some benefits -- more people can fly at lower costs than ever before.

But prices have increased for some flying consumers, particularly for travelers using smaller airports. Many West Virginia consumers complain that they are paying higher airplane ticket prices and getting less service, in order that big airlines can offer bargains on flights into major airports and to popular resorts here and abroad.

But deregulation has also contributed to the increase in air hazards and near-accidents.

In an effort to avoid airport delays and to meet rising air travel demands, the FAA has squeezed more planes into the limit-

ed airlines, increasing the chances of accidents.

Yet, in the face of a 20-percent increase in air traffic over the past five years, we have significantly fewer air-traffic controllers than we did in 1981.

Clearly, the United States is fortunate not to have suffered more airline collisions than we have.

To avoid such tragedies in the future, I recently called on the FAA and the White House to take several practical steps to increase air safety -- bringing the air-traffic control force rapidly to full force; requiring the use of warning devices on small aircraft; planning air traffic nationally to avoid creating dangerous "rush hour" conditions at major air centers; and convening the Aviation Safety Commission that Congress mandated six months ago, to study the growing safety crisis in air travel, among other possible moves to increase safety in the skies.

Air travel is the preferred mode of distance transportation for most Americans, and airline deregulation has been popular with a majority of consumers. However, the President, the Congress, and the traveling public must work together to reap the benefits of deregulation without compromising air safety.

Indeed, if the FAA cannot preside over our deregulated skies safely, I would support the re-regulation of some aspects of the airline industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Death Penalty for Espionage

From Benedict Arnold until recently, Americans have considered treason and espionage against their country among the most heinous of crimes. Throughout our history, the majority of spies caught in the United States have been aliens, not American citizens.

The Walker spy ring, the Pollard case, and the Moscow embassy scandal, however, are radical departures from that earlier patriotic tradition. In these recent espionage incidents, greed and avarice appear to have superceded any sense of loyalty to country.

This plague of Americans selling military secrets to foreign governments -- what some have called "an espionage epidemic" -- is an outrage.

Consequently, I recently introduced legislation to help curb that espionage epidemic--a bill to set constitutional standards by which the death penalty could be imposed in certain espionage cases.

This legislation does not in itself impose capital punishment for espionage. That decision was enacted by Congress some years ago.

However, in 1972, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty was unconstitutional unless certain procedures were established to safeguard defendants against unjust, discriminatory, unreasonable, or inhumane conviction and

sentencing.

My legislation puts into place such procedures in espionage cases.

Under my bill, a person found guilty of espionage against the United States would face a second hearing to determine if his deeds warranted the death penalty. Courts and juries would have wide latitude in making that decision, taking into account both the mitigating and aggravating factors in the case.

And if the death penalty were applied, that decision could be appealed.

The main purpose of this legislation is to use capital punishment as a deterrent to espionage.

Currently, an individual who considers spying against our country, weighs the value of monetary or other gain against the sometimes notorious leniency of our penal codes.

But capital punishment is final, and anyone caught spying on the United States should have to contemplate that he might also be risking his life.

Spying is not a crime of passion.

Individuals who engage in espionage do so calculatedly, deliberately, and coldly. With the enactment of my proposed legislation, such individuals might have second thoughts about espionage if their own executions were the possible outcome of their actions.

May 20, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

U.S. Senate Continues Programs Helpful to West Virginia

The United States Senate has passed a federal budget plan that continues a number of programs essential to West Virginia's progress and future growth.

Conscious of the need to cut federal budget deficits, the Senate reduced funds for certain government programs. At the same time, however, the Senate increased the funds for job training by \$700 million--a program especially helpful for West Virginians needing new skills to enter the job market.

In addition, the Senate budget retained the valuable Community Development Block Grant program, as well as extending the life of the Urban Development Action Grant program, the Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

In recent years, those programs have funneled millions of federal dollars into West Virginia for highways, downtown revitalization programs, public water system expansion and modernization, new and updated wastewater treatment plants and systems, and the creation of industrial and business opportunities in several West Virginia communities.

In the process, those

federal funds have ensured jobs for thousands of West Virginians.

Ironically, the President had sent a proposed budget to Congress that would have cut back or terminated all of those programs. The Senate--by a vote of 81 to 18--rejected the President's budget, under which West Virginia would have lost millions in future federal dollars, along with countless jobs.

The Senate budget also defeated administration efforts to end a number of rural programs that have built water and sewer systems in numerous West Virginia communities.

Another effect of the Senate's budget was to prevent the administration from cutting student financial assistance for higher education by 45 percent, and to terminate federal assistance for vocational education.

In addition, the Senate budget establishes a deficit reduction account by which the federal budget will be balanced by 1991.

The Senate budget is good news for West Virginia, and ensures that educational, economic, highway, development, and training programs vital to thousands of West Virginians and many West Virginia communities will continue.

May 27, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships in West Virginia

Academic performance is often a clue to a young man's or woman's future accomplishments and contributions to our state and country.

To further the pursuit of excellence in academic performance, and to encourage the development of America's and West Virginia's future leaders, in 1985, I proposed and won passage of a national Honors Scholarship Program.

Under this program, each year, by a formula based on student population, a number of federally underwritten college scholarships will be made available in every state.

At \$1,500 each, these scholarships will be awarded to those students who have shown outstanding academic achievement in high school, and have been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher education. The scholarships are not renewable.

In a gracious gesture, my Senate colleagues, at the suggestion of Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, voted to call this effort to encourage academic excellence officially the "Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship" program. Winning students will be known as "Byrd Scholars."

The first Byrd Schol-

arships are being awarded this year -- 4,749 in all.

Recently, I received a warm letter from one young Michigan Byrd Scholar, who wrote, "If it were not for this award, I fear I would not have been able to meet my college expenses this fall."

The Byrd Honors Scholarship program is based strictly on scholastic merit. In West Virginia, candidates for this honor are nominated by their high schools, with the West Virginia Board of Regents making the final selection.

This year, 41 outstanding West Virginia college-bound high school students have been named Byrd Scholars.

On Saturday, June 13th, in ceremonies at the University of Charleston, sponsored jointly by the Board of Regents and the state Department of Education, these 41 Byrd Scholars will be recognized, and will receive their awards.

These young West Virginians have made excellent academic records.

I know that all West Virginians are proud of these students, and join me wishing West Virginia's 1987 Byrd Scholars every success in their academic careers and in all of their future endeavors.

June 3, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Day 1987

This year, on June 20th -- West Virginia Day -- our state will be 124 years old.

Few people today, however, realize how near West Virginia came to not becoming a separate state.

By 1861, many rugged pioneer Virginians on the western side of the Allegheny Mountains believed that their Richmond capital was too far away, and often did not give a sympathetic hearing to the concerns of western Virginians.

For many in western Virginia, Virginia's secession from the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War was a last straw. Eager to remain loyal to the United States, the majority of West Virginians chose to break away from the Richmond government and form a new state.

Opposed to the new statehood movement, however, a significant number of western Virginians desired just as sincerely to stay a part of Virginia.

Thus was the ground laid for a bloody and often fratricidal struggle that tore West Virginia from 1861 until hostilities ended in 1865.

At the same time, powerful men in Washington were adamantly opposed to statehood for West Virginia. If secession from the Union was wrong for the Confederacy, they asked, how could

Washington sanction the counties of a state seceding from that state without legal permission?

Fortunately, President Abraham Lincoln admired both the loyalty and the bravery of the Unionists of West Virginia. His influence swung support to West Virginia statehood. After all, Lincoln said, "...There is still a difference between secession **against** the Constitution, and secession **in favor of** the Constitution."

So, on June 20, 1863, West Virginia officially became the Thirty-fifth State.

After the War Between the States, Union and Confederate West Virginians alike joined in developing their new state. Drawing on their pioneering heritage, they harnessed our state's natural resources and made West Virginia one of the world's industrial giants. In so doing, West Virginia's founding patriarchs likewise left us a legacy of decency, democracy, hard work, courage, and patriotism for which our state is recognized even today.

As we celebrate West Virginia's 124th birthday, we can be proud of our rich history, and can build on that foundation to make our state stronger and more prosperous in the years ahead.

Happy 124th Birthday, West Virginia!

June 10, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

One Year of Televising the U.S. Senate

On June 2, 1986 -- roughly one year ago -- the C-SPAN cable television system began carrying the daily sessions of the United States Senate for the first time on a regular basis.

That first day, 180 C-SPAN affiliated local cable systems made the Senate telecasts available to 7.5 million households.

Currently, after one year, the C-SPAN Senate telecasts are being carried by 400 cable systems serving 9.2 million households.

I am particularly gratified by those expanding statistics. For many years, I worked to open the Senate to television, and I was an original sponsor of the legislation that made the Senate telecasts possible. The growing audience for the Senate telecasts confirms my belief that the American people are interested in the work of the Senate, and appreciate the opportunity to watch the Senate on a regular basis.

As the Senate debated the legislation to authorize the telecasts, some Senators and others expressed con-

cern that television might distort the legislative process and prolong Senate debates. Instead, television seems to have shortened and focused Senate speeches and debates, and has increased public understanding of the Senate and the legislation it considers.

Among their comments, viewers have written, "The script is being written as we watch," and "You really get to see both sides of the subject in detail."

Right now, only 9 percent of the cable-served households in West Virginia receive the Senate telecasts. I hope that more cable systems in our state will obtain the C-SPAN II channel in the future, in order that more West Virginians can take part in a growing American experience. The Senate daily debates and discusses issues important to the people of our state, and the Senate telecasts would help more West Virginians to understand and to make decisions on vital concerns that touch all of our lives.

June 17, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Glorious Fourth of July

July 4, 1776, is a date of worldwide significance.

On that day, representatives of the sprawling colonies of British North America, meeting in Philadelphia as the Continental Congress, officially cut the ties that made them subjects of the British Crown.

That was the first time in history that a politically sophisticated group of people had risen en masse to assert their ordained liberties against a Divine Right monarchy.

That was also but the first step on the road to independence for the United States. A grueling war had to be won against the most powerful military force of that era before the Declaration of Independence was more than wishful thinking.

But win that war the Colonists did, and the longest experiment in self-government in human history was launched.

The success of the American Revolution has been an inspiration to struggles against tyranny worldwide. Since 1776, advocates for democracy in countries as diverse as France, China, India, Germany, Italy, and the nations of Latin America have listed the Founding Fathers of the United States as their philosophical ancestors.

But the primary significance of the Fourth of July is for the American people themselves.

The proclamation of independence on July 4, 1776, translated our forebears from being subjects of a royal majesty into being free citizens of a nation that they themselves had created.

Citizenship is an active, not a passive, condition. Citizenship carries with it responsibilities, as well as rights and privileges.

Unfortunately, too many Americans are content to allow others to exercise the responsibilities of citizenship for them, taking but passing interest in the decisions being made by their town councils, state legislatures, or the Congress of the United States.

All of us pay a price for that abdication of involvement. I hope that during this year's Fourth of July celebrations, many Americans and West Virginians will reflect on the unique event that we are commemorating, and will breathe a solemn vow to commit themselves to active, rather than passive, citizenship.

Apathy is democracy's greatest enemy, and can do more to unravel our liberties than whole battalions of invading troops.

June 24, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Vital Decision for America And West Virginia

During the two World Wars, America's heavy industrial might -- represented in West Virginia by such powerful enterprises as our steel and chemical plants and our coal mines -- turned the tide for the Allies.

Indeed, America was rightly called "The Arsenal of Democracy."

In recent years, however, the United States has lost much of its industrial potential. As foreign imports have captured as much as 25 percent of the American automobile market, the resulting cutback in domestic demand has meant alarming job losses and plant curtailments in industries supplying materials to U.S. automakers. Also, many foreign countries have cut American and West Virginia goods out of their markets, and placed our products at unfair disadvantages in other ways.

Unfortunately, certain economists, wedded to outmoded policies that made sense when the United States enjoyed overwhelming strength in world trade, see no cause for alarm. Some of them point to the rise in service-industry jobs as America's future, claiming that the U.S. can do without heavy manufactur-

ing. Preserving free trade is more important, we are told, than holding onto, and modernizing, our heavy industries. Besides, they continue, we can always import more foreign goods if we need them.

That is shortsighted and potentially catastrophic thinking.

That philosophy has cost us the jobs of countless Americans and West Virginians, denying us the skills of some of the world's best workers. It also places our country in an untenable position, were we again to confront a conflict equal to the First and Second World Wars.

In time of general war, how could America depend for its security on steel mills thousands of miles away, or coal, chemicals, and weapons from distant countries?

Common sense tells us that America needs a policy that strengthens industries vital to our national security and economic strength, that revives and gives preference to high-paying West Virginia enterprises such as steel and coal, and that assures that we will always possess the industrial might that we need to defend our freedom and guard our interests around the world.

July 1, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Career Planning for Young West Virginians

With my support, early in July the U.S. Senate approved a measure for added federal funds to retrain men and women in 31 states who have been displaced from their jobs as a result of foreign imports.

West Virginia's steel, coal, shoe, textile, and glass industries have been particularly hurt by such foreign competition.

Recent figures show that approximately 300 people in Kanawha County and 1,100 people in McDowell County have been certified as "displaced" by the impact of foreign steel imports alone.

U.S. Labor Department statistics indicate that our state can currently use at least \$1 million more in worker retraining funds to re-equip displaced West Virginians to compete in today's job market.

The new retraining funds just approved will be welcomed by those West Virginians seeking job retraining at vocational schools and colleges.

Job displacement, however, points up vividly the shifting nature of the world, U.S., and West Virginia employment and career situation.

At one time, many young men and women in West Virginia might count on lifelong employ-

ment in the same industry and even with the same company. Often, basic educational skills were enough to qualify for, and hold onto, many jobs.

Today, however, young men and women need to plan their employment futures more carefully. Genuine proficiency in basic educational skills, combined with knowledge in a variety of newer vocational abilities, can give a job applicant a fairer chance at winning the position he or she wants.

Particularly, today's students should aim at acquiring practical computer skills. Whether in white-collar or blue-collar careers, some computer knowledge is more and more expected by potential employers. Likewise, those students not planning on pursuing college might master one or more trade skills to become more attractive in their job searching.

More than a century ago, Ralph Waldo Emerson advised, "Make yourself necessary to somebody."

In the wisdom of job-winning, that slogan is as valid today as it was in the last century. A good basic education, coupled with sought-after vocational skills, affords a potent mixture for making one necessary in the contemporary job market.

July 8, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley Update

West Virginia's Software Valley movement is only two years old, and is already producing economic benefits.

The Software Valley movement is a concerted effort that I helped initiate, to lay the foundations for a high-technology and computer software industry in West Virginia.

Since being launched, Software Valley has drawn the interest and participation of hundreds of West Virginia business and industry leaders, educators, technologists, and government representatives.

Several conferences on Software Valley and West Virginia's computer potential have been held in Morgantown and Beckley.

West Virginia University, Marshall University, and many of our state's public and private colleges have been enlisted in active promotion of the goals of Software Valley.

The Harris Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation, and IBM have made major technological, financial, and personnel contributions to Software Valley, better to connect West Virginia with important national computer resources, and to help West Virginia develop and capitalize on its software potential.

In addition, NASA has established a "Recon Network" link with West Virginia University that will enable the University to work with other colleges on NASA research and de-

velopment projects. West Virginia University has also signed cooperative agreements with Carnegie-Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute (a Department of Defense entity) and the National Science Foundation's Supercomputer Consortium, both in Pittsburgh.

Software Valley chapters -- groups of West Virginians interested in developing software possibilities in specific areas of the state -- have been organized, or are forming, in Morgantown, Wheeling, Beckley, Charleston, Huntington, Clarksburg, and Martinsburg.

In addition, this month, I was pleased to join in the announcement in Morgantown of the awarding of a \$5 million Defense Department contract to Nations, Inc. Earning this defense contract was a result of Nations' association with the Software Valley movement. This contract will mean the expansion of the Nations company, and the creation of more jobs in the Morgantown area.

I congratulate Nations on winning its defense contract. Likewise, I congratulate the the Software Valley movement on the progress that is being made. I also invite anyone interested in finding out more about this important technological and economic movement in West Virginia to contact my offices in Washington or Charleston for more information.

July 15, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Liberty's Two-hundred-year-old Charter

During the Summer of 1787, delegates from the Thirteen Original States assembled in Philadelphia to discuss problems of mutual concern. When the delegates adjourned, they left our country with one of the greatest political documents ever written -- the Constitution of the United States of America.

We are this year celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. Without that Constitution, our country could have hardly achieved the greatness that it has, and it is questionable that Americans would enjoy the liberties and the way of life that are ours today.

The Constitution was conceived and adopted in a world largely ruled by Divine Right monarchs who claimed absolute authority over their subjects. In effect, the Founding Fathers were launching an experiment in democratic rule that many in Europe expected to fail.

The Founding Fathers, however, believed that free people should decide for themselves the questions that shaped their own destiny. Likewise, the Founding Fathers distrusted unbridled power in the hands of anybody. For that reason, the Constitution put into place a feature unique to American government -- a system of

checks and balances.

The Constitution gives immense powers to the federal government.

But the Constitution divides and shares that power among the three branches of our federal system -- the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial -- to ensure against the rise of tyranny, the abuse of power by high officials, and the violation of the legal and constitutional rights of the American people.

That system of checks and balances can never be taken for granted. Several times in our history, even in the defense of democracy and freedom, government figures -- often unelected -- have overstepped the limits of their authority and power. Again and again, threats to our republic were neutralized because of the checks on power written into the Constitution.

The Founding Fathers did not create a perfect government. But they were wise enough to give us a practical framework by which to govern ourselves, and by which to correct mistakes and injustices when they arose. We stand ever indebted to the men of that Philadelphia summer two hundred years ago for authoring the great charter of liberty the anniversary of which we celebrate this year.

July 22, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Trade Bill That Would Boost West Virginia's Economy

West Virginia would stand to benefit from the comprehensive trade bill recently passed by the U.S. Senate.

For six years, the federal administration has failed to take seriously the alarms that I and other Senators of both parties have sounded about our deteriorating international trade problems.

All the while, America's trade deficit ballooned. Last year alone, that deficit registered \$170 billion, and statistics for May indicate that this year's trade deficit is already running at an annual rate of \$173 billion.

Much of the current trade crisis can be laid to the unfair practices of several foreign competitors -- dumping, the exclusion of American products from overseas markets, the massive subsidizing by foreign countries of domestic products, and deliberate efforts to eliminate certain American industries as competitors and then take over their markets, for example.

Such practices cost West Virginia dearly in lost jobs, wages, and profits, in the steel, coal, glass, shoe, chemical, and other heavy industries.

Not knee-jerk protectionism, the Senate trade

bill promises to reverse some of that damage, offering positive measures to open foreign markets to American and West Virginian products.

For example, an initiative would be launched to encourage the removal of foreign trade barriers and to increase our exports.

Other measures of this legislation would boost science and mathematics programs in our schools, so as to better prepare American youngsters to compete technologically in the future world economy.

To assist displaced workers in ailing industries, retraining programs would be reformed and expanded. In addition, American commercial innovation and scientific advances would be promoted by the focused efforts of the federal government, and by stricter patent laws to protect American inventions against foreign piracy.

West Virginia is one of our country's leading exporting states. West Virginia industries and workers would profit by the Senate's trade bill. This legislation is a positive effort to stand up for America, for American industry, and for the American worker.

July 29, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Financial Help for West Virginia College Students

As the opening of a new school year approaches, first-time and returning college students often start adding up their upcoming expenses. Such students should realize that several financial-aid possibilities are open to them.

One aid plan is the **Pell Grant** program. Pell Grants help under-graduates pay for their education. Repayment is not required, but student eligibility must be maintained and will be monitored.

Another financial-aid option is a campus-based **College Work Study Program (CWS)**. A CWS program provides jobs for undergraduates and graduates who need financial aid. The amount of a CWS stipend depends on need, as well as on the availability of CWS funds at that college or university. No repayment of CWS funds is required.

A **Perkins Loan** is a campus-based loan, carrying a low interest rate (5% currently), made directly by a college to a specific undergraduate or graduate student. Loan amounts are based on need and local availability of funds. A Perkins Loan is repaid after graduation and the passage of a reasonable grace period, with terms and penalties governed by the expected practices related to most promissory notes.

Many students use **Guaranteed Student Loans (GSL)**. A GSL is a low-

interest loan made to a student by a lender such as a bank, credit union, or savings and loan association. GSL's are insured by state guarantee agencies and re-insured by the Federal Government.

Interest rates on GSL's for new borrowers run currently at 8 percent. Repayment of a GSL is a legal obligation, and default on a GSL repayment may bring serious consequences.

With good planning a student can budget his expenses and payments using one or a combination of the programs mentioned. Other grants, scholarships, and awards are also available.

Students or potential students should consult with their high school counselor, a college financial aid officer, or a local bank loan department for specifics about college costs and possible financial assistance.

Answers to further questions about the financial programs listed here may also be obtained by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center in Rockville, Maryland, telephone number (301) 984-4070.

West Virginia students interested in GSL's can find added help by contacting the Higher Education Assistance Foundation in Charleston, at (304) 345-7211.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Resource to Promote Better Airline Safety

Last year, I authored a bill to create an agency to improve air travel safety in our country.

Out of my legislation came the recently established Aviation Safety Commission, an independent panel charged with investigating the impact of airline deregulation on aviation safety, and with studying ways to improve the nation's air traffic system.

As the lead-off witness in the Commission's recent first hearing, I underlined the urgency of the safety task before them.

The growth of air traffic resulting from airline deregulation, coupled with the firing of 11,500 veteran air traffic controllers in 1981, has left America's air traffic system overburdened and understaffed.

As a result, this year, near mid-air collisions are up 21 percent over last year, and operational errors are up 18 percent.

Air travel is currently the favored mode of transportation by a majority of Americans. Every day, hundreds of thousands of Americans board airplanes.

Airline deregulation was touted as a boon to the flying public. Unfortunately, with airline deregulation has come shoddy airplane maintenance and a narrow-

ing of the margin of air traffic safety.

Currently, flying is becoming more and more a gamble -- a deadly gamble that should not go unchallenged. We cannot continue playing Russian roulette with the lives of air travelers.

In my testimony, I urged the Aviation Safety Commission to press upon the Federal Aviation Administration the paramount duty of improving the airline safety situation in this country.

I voted to deregulate the airlines, but I did not vote to deregulate air safety. No commercial carrier has a right to boost profits by cutting corners on safety and maintenance.

Real flesh-and-blood people board planes, trusting in the integrity of the airline companies to get them unharmed to their contracted destinations. We have every reason to expect that the airlines have taken every conceivable precaution to ensure our travel safety in exchange for the privilege of soliciting our business and using the skies that belong to all of us.

All American and West Virginian air travelers are counting on the new Aviation Safety Commission to improve the margin of aviation safety in our sky lanes.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Handy Hotlines: Free Federal Information Lines

West Virginians sometimes ask where they can get information on a variety of federal programs, services, and opportunities.

I have compiled the following list of toll-free federal hotlines that may help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions. I hope that these numbers will prove useful.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Information, Department of Health and Human Services	1-800-638-6694
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000
(for parents and runaways to leave messages)	
Parents Anonymous (child abuse)	1-800-421-0353
Consumer Product Safety Commission . .	1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints, fact sheets)	
Environmental Protection Agency	1-800-424-9346
(hazardous waste information)	
Army Recruitment and Employment Information	1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Recruitment and Employment Information	1-800-423-2600
Navy Recruitment and Employment Information	1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse	1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management Agency . .	1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)	
National Health Information Clearinghouse	1-800-336-4797
Small Business Administration	1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)	
Federal Home Loan Bank Board	1-800-424-5405
(mortgage rate information)	
Social Security Administration	1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)	
Veterans Benefits Counseling	1-800-642-3520
Transportation Department	1-800-424-9393
(auto safety information and complaints)	
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center	1-800-554-2220
(information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)	

August 19, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Falling into Another OPEC Energy Trap

During the 1970's, Americans learned how vulnerable our country's energy supplies are to foreign crises.

In the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, and following the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979, Americans suffered through gasoline lines, soaring energy prices, and spiraling inflation.

Fighting back, and supported by a coast-to-coast consensus, Congress, on a bipartisan basis, put into place a number of innovative public and private efforts to develop new energy resources.

In 1981, however, the current federal administration took a meat ax to America's domestic energy programs.

Asserting that the best energy policy is no energy policy, the administration emasculated the Department of Energy, dismantled federal programs to develop fossil and synthetic fuels, slashed energy conservation programs, put the brakes on filling the national strategic petroleum reserve, and vetoed legislation providing emergency plans to meet new energy crises.

The current Iran-Iraq clash underlines how perilous that misguided policy is for the United States.

Right now, Iran can threaten much of the world's economy by blocking petroleum shipments from the Persian Gulf.

In 1986, the U.S. im-

ported 37 percent of its total petroleum needs, compared with 31.5 percent a year earlier.

Of those 1986 imports, 46 percent came from members of the OPEC cartel, up from 35 percent from OPEC countries in 1985.

Ominously, America's most expert energy authorities have estimated that, at current rates, foreign oil imports could constitute as much as 50 percent of our national consumption by the mid-1990's.

How often must we be reminded that America's national security rests on our energy security? The United States possesses the resources and the technology to develop the energy security that would free itself from the despots and uncertainties of the Middle East. We need the determination to put into place a long-term energy policy that could harness West Virginia's nearly measureless coal supplies through modern, clean-burning technologies; that could renew the development of liquid fuels from coal; that could launch the search for new petroleum and natural gas resources; and that could free us from the blackmail of potential petroleum cutoffs.

Before the gasoline lines form again, and while we still have the opportunity, let us take the steps needed to ensure America's future energy security.

August 26, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Low Crime Rate

Recently, the FBI published the state-by-state crime statistics for 1986.

For the fourteenth year in a row, West Virginia holds the distinction for having the lowest crime rate in the Nation.

The annual FBI report records crimes in eight categories: murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, car theft, and arson.

Overall last year, West Virginia suffered 2,317 such offenses per 100,000 population -- less than half the national average of 5,480 per 100,000.

Understanding that low crime rate will be difficult unless one grasps that West Virginia is more than a geographic territory.

West Virginia is, more significantly, a culture, as well.

The West Virginia culture is inherently moral and spiritual. As corollaries to their religious faith and family loyalty, most young West Virginians are reared to respect other people, to revere the rights of their neighbors, to regard the sanctity of private homes and businesses, and to follow age-old codes and principles of behavior and conduct.

Likewise, outside observers often comment on the closeness of West Virginia families, and on the warmth and hospitality

that West Virginians show toward one another and toward strangers in their midst.

Certainly, those and other qualities are becoming rare in many parts of the contemporary world, and their presence in West Virginia should be a matter of genuine pride to all of the people of our state.

Looking beyond their borders, West Virginians understandably see possibilities that we would like to import into our state -- new industries, greater tourist enterprises, sports and entertainment developments, and other projects that would create more jobs and renew our economy.

But in the process of making West Virginia materially more prosperous and like other states, how tragic would be the loss of those qualities that make West Virginians the special people that they are.

In our state, good character, and decent and honorable conduct, are salient elements of the West Virginia way of life. Let us take pride in these sterling assets and in our consistently low rate of crime, and let us shape West Virginia's future in such a fashion that our mountain people will continue to be one of the Nation's most notable resources.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Key to West Virginia's Future: Flexible Manufacturing

Robots are today in use in many major American industries.

Commanded by sophisticated computer software, these robots are complex processing machines that can be geared to assemble automobiles, print electronic circuits, weave fine cloth designs, or manufacture a variety of goods in everyday use.

This is a result of the development of "flexible manufacturing systems." Flexible manufacturing is the use of computer software to direct and control robots and other processing machines in the production of goods. To produce a different product, or a different version or size of the same product, requires only a change in the software running the computer. Flexible manufacturing allows customized items to be produced at the same cost as mass-produced items, and allows products to be made of a higher quality and at a more competitive price.

Indeed, industrial experts project that, in the future, flexible manufacturing will prevail throughout most industries, here and abroad.

For that reason, I have initiated efforts to acquaint more West Virginia business and manufacturing people with the flexible manufacturing concept.

At my request, a number of West Virginians

have been taken on tours of the Automated Manufacturing Research Facility at the National Bureau of Standards in Gaithersburg, Maryland, to witness flexible manufacturing firsthand.

In addition, I have initiated contact between the Department of Commerce in Washington and a number of West Virginia institutions and enterprises -- Software Valley, the West Virginia Roundtable, Marshall and West Virginia Universities, the Board of Regents, and West Virginia Tech, for example -- to develop a statewide approach for putting flexible manufacturing systems in place in West Virginia. I am also working to obtain support and funding from federal agencies -- NASA, and the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and Agriculture -- to establish flexible manufacturing training centers.

Certain West Virginia firms have already installed flexible manufacturing systems in their operations. Executives of those companies agree with me that flexible manufacturing -- harnessing robots to computer software -- is a key to new industries, new jobs, and growing prosperity.

I invite anyone wanting more information on the exciting possibilities of flexible manufacturing for West Virginia's future to contact my offices either in Washington or Charleston.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Opportunities for Statesmanship

President Franklin Roosevelt once said, "The future lies with those wise leaders who realize that the great public is more interested in government than in politics."

That advice would be helpful to remember as Congress launches its fall session with a full agenda.

In particular, that agenda includes consideration of a Supreme Court nomination (Judge Robert Bork), the federal budget deficit, the trade conference report, the federal debt limit, Contra aid, and a potential arms control agreement. In addition, Congress might also be considering catastrophic health insurance, airline safety, welfare reform, and appropriations bills.

Already Congress watchers are waxing pessimistic about Congress's ability to shape legislation on those topics and others, and then win Presidential approval for its efforts.

I am more optimistic than that. Congress can achieve much in the weeks ahead, particularly if its members keep in mind that their real purpose is broader and deeper than partisan politics and interparty rancor. Congress's real agenda is in ensuring America's security in the world; protecting the American people from unexpected and dangerous occurrences that are perhaps preventable or avoidable; and laying prac-

tical and positive foundations on which to build our country's future.

Such an agenda calls for statesmanship, not partisanship. More often than not, the sum total of political partisanship purely for its own sake is not good for the United States or West Virginia.

During much of August, I spent most of my time traveling throughout West Virginia. Wherever I went -- from Wheeling to Bluefield, from Huntington to Parkersburg, and from Williamson to Clarksburg -- I found countless thoughtful, well-informed West Virginians, concerned about the future of our state and our nation. Those West Virginians discussed with me, for example, our state and national economic problems stemming from foreign competition, perils to our peace from the Persian Gulf, chronic crises and dangers in air travel, and the need to plan and work now to solve these and future problems.

In the coming months, as Congress wrestles with important issues, I shall keep in mind both the concern and the hope that I saw on my recent progress through West Virginia, and I shall continue to seek cooperation from my colleagues and the Administration to satisfy the expectations and needs of our country and our state.

September 16, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley VI Conference in October

In 1985, I joined in launching the Software Valley movement in West Virginia -- a nonprofit effort to promote advanced-technology industrial computer research, education, and development in West Virginia.

Since its inception, the Software Valley movement has enjoyed steady growth and success. In periodic seminars held in West Virginia, hundreds of West Virginia business people, educators, and government officials have learned first-hand from some of America's foremost computer experts of opportunities that computer technology offers West Virginia.

On October 12, I shall be hosting the sixth Software Valley symposium near Morgantown, the technological anchor for the Software Valley movement, and the executive center of the nonprofit Software Valley Corporation.

The primary focus of this Software Valley VI Conference will be the promising role of computer software in manufacturing, and how it might benefit West Virginia.

In addition, officials from NASA and the Department of Defense will join in a panel discussion on the growing importance of the Ada computer language, the official computer language used by the Defense Department in ad-

vanced U.S. weapons systems.

Further features of this Software Valley conference will be presentations on ways of financing high-tech business ventures, and requirements for winning business contracts from the federal government.

I am encouraged by the ongoing success of the Software Valley movement, by the response of so many West Virginia entrepreneurs to the possibilities embodied in this effort, by the national attention that this movement has drawn to our state, and by the cooperation that has been demonstrated by countless people and institutions in West Virginia in forging this expanding enterprise.

Moreover, I am excited about the possibilities that computerized manufacturing offers our state, and I think that this approaching Software Valley conference will answer some of the questions that West Virginians might have about ways in which so-called "flexible manufacturing systems" could be used in our state.

Persons interested in attending the Software Valley VI Conference on October 12, or in obtaining further information on this promising meeting, should contact the Software Valley Corporation headquarters in Morgantown at (304) 296-0110.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The New West Virginia National Cemetery

Throughout its history, West Virginia has been one of the most patriotic states in the Union.

For example, West Virginia ranked fifth in participants as a percentage of male population in World War II, first in the Korean War, and second in the Vietnam War.

And our state ranked first during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts in deaths as a percentage of our state's male population.

For many decades, the families of many West Virginia veterans had the consolation of burying their loved ones at the Grafton National Cemetery. But the Grafton National Cemetery was closed to new interments in 1961.

The Veterans Administration estimates that, currently, approximately 240,000 service veterans live in the State of West Virginia. As the veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam grow older, more and more of those veterans will be entitled to burial in national cemeteries. Understandably, families would prefer that those burials be nearby.

Fortunately, the recent opening of the new VA West Virginia Na-

tional Cemetery at Pruntytown will help to meet the needs of many West Virginia veterans. Located on 58 acres that were formerly part of the West Virginia Industrial School for Boys, the initially landscaped acreage provides an estimated 3,000 gravesites, with a total capacity of approximately 6,400 when neighboring usable acres are developed in the future.

A number of West Virginia veterans and veterans' groups were active and indispensable in helping make the new National Cemetery at Pruntytown a reality. I am glad that I was able to obtain approximately \$2.4 million in federal funds for the site improvements and future construction that will make this cemetery a shrine of which all West Virginians can be proud.

West Virginia veterans and their families can obtain more information about the new VA West Virginia National Cemetery and policies governing it by contacting Mr. James L. Turner, National Cemetery Director, at 431 Walnut St., Grafton, West Virginia, 26354; or by telephoning (304) 265-2044.

September 30, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Blennerhassett Island: "Eden on the River"

One of West Virginia's premier historical sites is Blennerhassett Island.

Located near Parkersburg in the Ohio River, Blennerhassett Island became famous for the events that took place there between 1798 to 1806.

In 1798, a wealthy, eccentric Irishman, Harman Blennerhassett, purchased 179 acres on what is today Blennerhassett Island. There, he built an exquisite mansion that came to be considered the most spectacular house west of the Appalachian Range.

Unfortunately, Blennerhassett earned infamy through his friendship with Aaron Burr.

In 1804, Aaron Burr killed long-time political rival Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

In 1805, Burr headed west to start a new life, stopping off at the Blennerhassett mansion. Blennerhassett became Burr's chief financial backer and allowed him to use the mansion as his headquarters.

In 1806, convinced that Burr was planning to establish a private kingdom in the West, President Jefferson had Burr and Blennerhassett arrested for high treason.

Despite the government's efforts, Burr was found not guilty.

Blennerhassett also went free. But his connection with Burr had cost Blennerhassett his fortune, and he was forced to sell off his Ohio Valley holdings.

In 1811, a slave accidentally set the mansion on fire, and the house burned to the ground.

In the early 1970's, citizens in the Parkersburg area spearheaded an effort to develop the site as an historic area. In 1980, with the exterior of the mansion reproduced as it originally appeared, Blennerhassett Island was opened to the public as an historical recreation park. This past summer, an historical musical drama, "Eden on the River," was staged there for the first time. As a result, 100,000 tourists, traveling from all states and 30 foreign countries, are expected to visit Blennerhassett Island this year.

Fabled Blennerhassett Island is a place that all West Virginians can take pride in sharing with other Americans, and could be developed into one of our country's major tourist attractions in the years ahead.

October 7, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Pending Funds for West Virginia Progress

In the recent Interior Department funding bill passed by the U.S. Senate, I was successful in winning approval of funds for several projects and programs to benefit West Virginia specifically.

One of my ongoing concerns is the advance of coal research programs that will render coal more attractive as an energy source, and increase the demand for West Virginia coal. To that end, I was able to include in the Interior bill \$15 million to establish a National Research Center for Coal and Energy at West Virginia University, and another \$12 million for a new research facility and administration wing at the Department of Energy's Morgantown Energy Technology Center.

In addition, the Senate bill contains \$700,000 that I requested to establish a timber research center at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Princeton, in which ways of expanding manufacturing of wood products using West Virginia hardwoods would be

investigated.

Also in the Interior bill are the following West Virginia appropriations:

---\$2 million for improvement projects in the Monongahela National Forest;

---\$1.6 million for improvements and programs at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park;

---\$10 million for development and operation of the New River Gorge National River project;

---\$3.5 million to improve the Bowden Fish Hatchery in Randolph County;

---\$300,000 for work at the Leetown Fish Hatchery in Jefferson County;

---\$408,000 to underwrite West Virginia's gypsy moth control program;

---and \$100,000 to monitor black-fly spraying in southern West Virginia.

I will continue to work for the final approval of this legislation in Congress and by the White House. The West Virginia items in this Interior bill are important to our state's economy and future progress.

October 14, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Stonewall Jackson Lake: The Honor and the Promise

Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson is reputed by many historians to be the world's most famous native West Virginian.

Born in Clarksburg, Jackson grew up along the banks of the West Fork River at Jackson's Mill, Lewis County, before emerging in later years as a brilliant Confederate general, and one of the world's true military geniuses.

Though most West Virginia families boast a Unionist background, many people in our state have voiced disappointment that no monument commensurate with Jackson's stature can be found in West Virginia.

That deficiency may be on the verge of being corrected, and the West Fork River may itself provide the occasion for a suitable means of honoring Jackson's memory.

One of the major tributaries of the Monongahela, the West Fork has flooded the City of Weston and other downstream communities at least fifty times in the past nearly half-century. The floods of 1980 and 1981 caused an estimated \$1.2 million in damages to the Weston area alone.

Armed with such figures, I was able to obtain approval of the necessary federal funds to dam and harness the West Fork

River above Weston.

The value of building the Stonewall Jackson Dam was preliminarily confirmed during heavy rains in 1985 when, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, the partially finished dam was credited with saving the Weston area several million dollars in property damage, and reduced flooding in Clarksburg as well.

Currently, work on the dam is virtually complete, and coming months will see the impoundment behind the dam of Stonewall Jackson Lake--a body of water covering approximately 3,470 square acres, surrounded by over 16,000 acres of scenic wild beauty.

Stonewall Jackson Lake will be the largest lake in West Virginia. Within 300 miles of fifty percent of America's population, and located beside Interstate 79, Stonewall Jackson Lake promises to become a major tourist attraction. Those studying the lake's potential, point specifically to its prospects for boaters, fishermen, hikers, and campers.

At last, West Virginia will have a memorial to Stonewall Jackson worthy of his memory. At the same time, in Stonewall Jackson Lake, we shall enjoy an asset of immense value to the future growth and economy of our state.

October 21, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Answering the Economic Alarm Bell

On Monday, October 19, the New York Stock Exchange index fell 508 points in one day -- an historic record.

On that day, economists estimate that stockholders lost as much as one-half trillion dollars. More, the economic turbulence stirred up on that day has not abated, and the aftershocks are being felt in West Virginia and every other state in the Union.

As drastic, agonizing, and frightening as that "Black Monday" may be, however, its greater significance comes as a warning.

I believe that we are at a critical turning point in America's economic fortunes. The stock market is warning us that our economy is in more danger than we think.

Wall Street has concluded that the days of plastic prosperity -- of the federal government's unbounded borrowing and spiraling federal debt -- are over. We cannot continue living off of a national credit card with no spending limit.

In the starkest warning possible, Wall Street is telling Washington that it wants a new economic policy, and it wants it fast.

Developing a new economic policy that reassures Wall Street and the American people, is the immediate responsibility of the

President and Congress -- a shared responsibility.

With that responsibility in mind, the leadership of both houses of Congress, representing both political parties, recently met with the President at the White House.

We made a good start in that meeting. We agreed that Members of Congress and representatives from the White House would hold a series of meetings to cut at least \$23 billion from next year's federal budget deficit.

We also agreed that every facet of the federal budget, except Social Security, will be on the table. Also, we urged all sides to stop pointing fingers, blaming, scapegoating, badgering, and bickering. We aim at being a bipartisan team, and we plan to look forward, not backward.

Those involved in these high-level meetings realize that this is a special time in our history -- a time for all of us to pull together as Americans, to fix our economy.

Most Americans who are aware of our current economic problems, know that no easy solutions lie ahead. But Congress is committed to working with the White House to hammer out the best solutions available to us in as non-partisan a fashion as possible.

October 28, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funds for Better Health and More Opportunities

In appropriations bills recently approved by the U.S. Senate, I was successful in including funds for a number of projects and programs that will benefit West Virginia.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in West Virginia. For that reason, I earlier obtained \$8.8 million in federal funds to begin construction of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at West Virginia University.

In the recent appropriation legislation, I won Senate approval of an additional \$4.5 million in federal funds for equipment and further construction at the new cancer center. When completed, this new facility will make available to countless West Virginians, treatments currently nowhere available in our state.

Also included in one of these appropriations bills is \$8 million to fund the nationwide Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program. The purpose of this program is to provide college scholarships in every state annually to talented students, in an effort to encourage the careers of scientists, scholars, and leaders for our nation's future. This past spring, forty-one young West Virginia high school graduates

nominated by their principals won such Byrd Honors Scholarships.

Another important measure for which I won approval was \$47.5 million to fund an addition to the Huntington VA Medical Center, which operates in cooperation with the Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington.

Among other items of interest to West Virginians are the following:

- \$700,000 to fund research in work-related respiratory diseases at the Appalachian Laboratory on Occupational Safety and Health at Morgantown;

- a provision to establish a new Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling Center and satellite center in southern West Virginia to serve Mercer, Raleigh, Logan, and McDowell counties;

- and language to keep in operation black-lung field offices in Beckley, Bluefield, Elkins, Logan, Madison, and Morgantown.

I will continue to work for the final approval of these legislative items in Congress and by the White House. The West Virginia items in these appropriations bills are important to our state's citizens and to their future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Air Passenger Protection Act of 1987

During recent decades, airplane travel has become the transportation mode-of-choice among a majority of Americans making long-distance trips.

Some years ago, some airline advocates touted deregulation of air travel as the means of providing better, less expensive air travel for the largest number of Americans.

Congress bowed to the clamor for deregulation. Unfortunately, the promised benefits of deregulation have been enjoyed by only a select segment of the air-traveling public, while deteriorating service and inconvenience have mounted steadily for increasing numbers of air passengers.

Since the deregulation of the airline industry, problems with delayed flights, cancelled flights, lost luggage, overbooking, poor aircraft maintenance, and customer service complaints, have multiplied manifold.

Further, as the quality of service has declined nationwide, the cost of air travel in many states, such as West Virginia, has continued to soar.

From across our state, I have received a continuing flow of first-hand airline horror tales: two- and three-hour delays; flight cancellations with no alternative flights provided; passengers left sitting in a plane, its air-conditioning broken, on the tarmac for two hours with outside temperatures near 90 degrees, while repairs were attempted; and unsched

uled late arrivals that have inconvenienced and thwarted thousands trying to pursue business concerns and personal agendas.

Clearly, this situation has called for new measures to protect the flying public. Unbridled deregulation has allowed some airlines to turn air travel into a cattle-car experience.

For that reason, I joined recently in supporting Senate passage by a vote of 89-5 of the "Air Passenger Protection Act of 1987." This Senate bill will require airlines to disclose their on-time performance records, and to make public the number of flights they have cancelled, bags lost, and passengers bumped from overbooked flights. In addition, a 24-hour toll-free hotline will be available to the public, to take consumer complaints, and to provide information on airline performance records.

The U.S. House of Representatives has recently passed similar legislation. Both pieces of legislation will be sent to a joint Senate-House conference committee to forge a bill agreeable to both chambers of Congress.

I shall continue working to obtain final passage of this legislation. West Virginians pay high prices for air service, and they deserve better than the cattle-car treatment to which too many air travelers too often are subjected under the banner of deregulation.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The American Thanksgiving Day Tradition

On Thursday, November 26, most government, commerce, and other everyday activities will halt in our country, and millions of Americans will observe Thanksgiving Day.

The most popular legend attached to Thanksgiving, places the First Thanksgiving celebration in the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621. That Thanksgiving was called by Governor William Bradford to give thanks to God for the colony's survival of its first bitter year in New England, and for the gathering in of a great harvest.

But an earlier Colonial Thanksgiving had taken place on December 4, 1619, in the Jamestown colony in Virginia. Held at Berkeley plantation, that Virginia Thanksgiving and the annual ones that followed, were, likewise, expressions of the colonists' gratitude for their survival and for the bountiful harvest.

The first national Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed during the American Revolution by Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress, to offer thanks for the Colonial victory over the British armies of General Burgoyne at Saratoga. The date was December 18, 1777.

Other Thanksgiving

Days followed sporadically throughout the Revolutionary War. But, on November 26, 1789, in the wake of the ratification of the Constitution, President George Washington issued a proclamation for a great nationwide day of thanks to be observed in every state and by every religious denomination.

In 1863 -- a year of important Union battle victories and the year of West Virginia's becoming the Thirty-fifth State -- President Lincoln, consciously following Washington's precedent, proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national Thanksgiving holiday.

For decades thereafter, consecutive American Presidents observed Lincoln's formula. For practical reasons, however, in 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt set the fourth Thursday of November as the legal holiday; and, in 1941, by joint resolution, Congress adopted the fourth Thursday as the official Thanksgiving holiday.

On Thanksgiving Day 1987, I hope that families across West Virginia will join in giving thanks on that day for the abundance of blessings that are ours as Americans, and in reflecting on the values that have made our nation great.

November 18, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Military Construction Plans for West Virginia

One of my ongoing priorities has been to increase West Virginia's participation in national defense projects, and to enlarge the share of defense dollars spent by the federal government in West Virginia.

Progress toward those goals was evident in recent Senate passage of the two-year Department of Defense Authorization Bill. At my request, included in that bill are more than \$30 million in authorized military improvements and new construction in West Virginia.

Aimed primarily at improving West Virginia's military reserve and National Guard facilities, these authorized projects will strengthen our state's traditional role in helping to defend and protect America's national security and worldwide interests.

This bill envisions \$6.1 million in defense projects in West Virginia in Fiscal Year 1988, and another \$23 million in FY 1989.

Among the 1988 authorized improvements are:

- \$1.4 million for a fire suppression system and \$1.1 million for a vehicle maintenance shop at the Air National Guard unit at Yeager Airport in Charleston;
- \$1.3 million to expand the Army Reserve Center and maintenance facility at New Martinsville;
- \$1 million for an addition to the Army National Guard Armory at Point Pleasant;
- \$796,000 for Phase

One construction of the Army National Guard training facility at Camp Dawson in Preston County;

--\$436,000 for an Army National Guard maintenance shop addition at Buckhannon.

Authorized improvements for FY 1989 are:

--\$5 million for an Army National Guard aviation support facility, and \$3 million for an Army Reserve Center, both at Parkersburg;

--\$5.8 million for multiple improvements at facilities used by the Charleston Air National Guard;

--\$3.9 million in additions and improvements for the Martinsburg Air National Guard unit;

--\$3.5 million for construction of Phases Two and Three at Camp Dawson;

--and \$650,000 cumulatively for additions and land acquisitions at Guard and Reserve Centers in Buckhannon, Beckley, and Morgantown.

In addition, this bill authorizes \$600,000 for an Air Force Reserve civil engineering training facility in Morgantown, and an extra \$3 million for renovations at Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County.

The Defense Department Authorization Bill now awaits White House approval. Certainly, this piece of legislation will mean important increases in West Virginia's ability to meet its national defense responsibilities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Memorial to the Women Veterans of the Vietnam War

One of the most moving and profound monuments in Washington is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial--a simple wall of polished black marble on which the names of our Vietnam War dead are engraved, faced by a trio of bronze American soldiers representing the men who served in that long conflict.

As dignified and appropriate as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is, however, a group of Vietnam veterans has come forward to suggest a means by which to make the Memorial even more representative of the sacrifices made by Americans in the Vietnam War.

During the Vietnam era, more than 250,000 women served our country, either as members of the Armed Services or as civilians in such organizations as the United Service Organizations (USO), CIA, and the Red Cross.

As many as 10,000 of those women were stationed in Vietnam. The names of eight of those women known to have died in Vietnam, or as a result of their service there, are

engraved among the names on the wall.

In an effort to pay tribute to the role of American women in the Vietnam War era, the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project has been organized. This volunteer movement is seeking to raise private funds to add the statue of a military woman to the marble wall, the statues of the three infantrymen, and the American flag that currently make up the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

I have joined in supporting this project. Also endorsing this effort are such prestigious organizations as the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built to honor all Americans who served in Vietnam. Adding a statue symbolizing a woman veteran would be a fitting tribute to the women who served our country in that war.

December 2, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Efforts to Increase West Virginia Trade Exports

West Virginia is one of America's leading exporting states.

For that reason, I have been working to correct the trade deficit from which our country has been suffering -- encouraging foreign countries to step up their purchase of our goods, and to end practices that keep West Virginia products out of their markets.

To that end, I recently met with the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Nobuo Matsunaga.

I reminded Ambassador Matsunaga of the agreement signed between the U.S. and Japan in 1983, pledging both governments to work toward greater cooperation in energy trade.

However, I pointed out that, since the Japanese Fiscal Year 1982, U.S. metallurgical coal exports to Japan have declined by 50 percent. West Virginia, with its rich supplies of metallurgical coal, has disproportionately felt that loss of coal exports.

I urged the ambassador to seek a firm pledge from the Japanese government to stabilize purchases of U.S. coal -- particularly West Virginia coal, both metallurgical and steam coals.

West Virginia timber was another product that I recommended that Japan could use. Japan endures a chronic housing shortage that imported West Virginia wood products could help to lessen. In addition, I told the ambassador that Japanese furniture manufacturers might benefit by exploring West Virginia as a location for building joint-venture furniture-manufacturing facilities.

Last year's trade deficit between our country and our foreign trading partners reached \$170 billion. Though recent economic signs point to possible improvements in that imbalance, economists do not expect this year's trade deficit to shrink significantly, if at all.

The battle to bring down the trade deficit will continue, and I shall keep working to forge reasonable legislation to correct that deficit wherever possible.

In the long run, however, one of the best ways to win more foreign customers for our West Virginia products is to sell them on the advantages of trading with West Virginia companies. That goal will also continue to be one of my highest priorities.

December 9, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The U.S.-Soviet INF Treaty

During the recent summit conference in Washington, President Reagan and Soviet Party Secretary Gorbachev signed an intermediate range nuclear forces treaty -- the INF Treaty -- to reduce a certain class of nuclear weapons in Europe and the Soviet Union.

Now, before going into effect, according to the U.S. Constitution, the INF Treaty has to be approved by a two-thirds vote of the United States Senate under its "advice and consent" role. Failure to win from the Senate an approval of ratification would halt the INF Treaty in its tracks.

I know that the people of West Virginia are concerned about nuclear war, and that they want to see progress on arms control.

However, I also know that West Virginians want to ensure that any treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union is, above all, in the security interests of our country.

I have urged the chairmen of the three Senate committees charged with

thorough examination of the treaty -- Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Intelligence -- to leave no stone unturned in an effort to bring clearly to the attention of the Senate and the American people all aspects of the INF Treaty, especially the verification process.

I am particularly concerned that, in pursuit of nuclear weapons control, we do not leave our allies in Europe vulnerable to intimidation and bullying by vastly larger Soviet and Warsaw Pact conventional forces in Eastern Europe. For nearly four decades, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization -- NATO -- has been a bulwark against communist aggression, and that is a bulwark that must be maintained.

Like so many West Virginians, I am skeptical of Soviet intentions, regardless of how attractive Soviet entreaties may be. In that skepticism, I shall weigh the INF Treaty, and I shall urge my Senate colleagues to take the necessary time to form their own wary decisions.

December 16, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Keeping This Holiday Bright and Happy

One of the tragic ironies of our national life is the toll of violent deaths suffered annually by hundreds of people on our highways at this festive season of the year.

Every New Year, hundreds of Americans lose their lives on our highways through the reckless and irresponsible acts of drunk or drugged automobile drivers. Countless other Americans are crippled or otherwise injured in accidents involving alcohol or drugs.

And for hundreds of thousands, the annual New Year's celebration is a reminder of that holiday when a loved one was killed in an automobile accident.

Drunken driving statistics themselves should give pause for reflection:

-In the past decade, roughly a quarter-million Americans have perished as a result of alcohol and drug-related automobile accidents.

-Fifty percent of all highway deaths involve the use of alcohol.

-Automobile accidents are the Number One cause

of death for Americans under age 35 -- and more than half of those deaths are caused by drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Anyone who has lost a relative or friend in a highway accident knows how agonizing such a loss can be. Adding to the pain of such a loss is the knowledge of how preventable such accidents are.

Those planning to be on the roads this Holiday Season would do well to heed a couple of helpful, life-saving rules:

-Do not, under any circumstances, drink and drive.

-If you judge that a friend has been drinking, make sure that that person does not get behind a steering wheel.

This year, make safe, sober driving a holiday motto. Be a real friend to someone of impaired driving ability, and a good citizen to other innocent drivers on the road.

Have a Happy New Year! And start 1988 the right way -- alive, well, and sober.

December 23, 1987



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Upcoming Meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister

Japan is one of America's leading trading partners. However, the trade gap between our two countries in favor of the Japanese for the first ten months of 1987 was \$50 billion.

In my ongoing efforts to cut America's foreign trade deficit, to promote West Virginia's economy, and to create more jobs for West Virginians, I shall be meeting with recently chosen Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita during his pending U.S. visit. Our meeting will take place in my U.S. Capitol Building office in early January.

High on my agenda for that meeting, I plan to talk seriously with Mr. Takeshita about increasing Japan's purchases of West Virginia metallurgical and steam coal.

In 1983, Japan and the United States signed an agreement on energy cooperation. That agreement was aimed at increasing energy trade between our two countries. In spite of that, since 1982, U.S. metallurgical coal shipments to Japan have declined by 50 percent, while her coal imports from China and the Soviet Union have increased.

Under past arrangements, West Virginia supplied roughly 65 percent of the metallurgical coal purchased by Japan. Thus, the decline of Japan's purchases of American coal has hit West Virginia mines

disproportionately hard.

In my upcoming meeting with Mr. Takeshita, I shall urge that Japan stabilize its purchases of U.S. coal at the FY 1986 level of 10 million metric tons, as well as commit itself to increasing purchases of U.S. coal.

In addition, I shall discuss with Prime Minister Takeshita my proposal that Japan purchase West Virginia timber, and enter into joint ventures with West Virginia businesses to manufacture furniture and other end products from our extensive hardwood and other timber resources. Such joint ventures could expand the wood products industry in West Virginia, and provide additional jobs for West Virginians.

These joint ventures could solve a number of current problems for both Japan and West Virginia. Japan has limited forests and a large demand for wood and wood products. West Virginia, on the other hand, ships its abundant timber resources to out-of-state manufacturers, which we then, paradoxically, buy back in the form of furniture and other finished wood products.

Japan offers significant opportunities for increasing West Virginia's foreign exports. For that reason especially, I look forward to my meeting with the Japanese prime minister.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Burgeoning Winter Industry

Heated world trade competition and the impact of that competition on West Virginia have led increasing numbers of West Virginians to look for ways to diversify our state's economy.

One of the primary examples of such diversification is tourism. Growing numbers of out-of-state visitors, as well as West Virginians, are taking advantage of the natural beauties and diversions that West Virginia offers.

One swelling facet of West Virginia's tourist industry is, however, still relatively unfamiliar to most people in our state -- the West Virginia skiing industry.

In recent years, hundreds of thousands of Americans have taken to the ski slopes, and more and more enterprising West Virginians have joined in developing this promising tourist industry in our state. Serving the skiing public has meant the building of lodging facilities, the hiring of expanded numbers of service personnel, and increased opportunities for tourist-industry suppliers.

In the 1985-86 season, for instance, West Virginia enjoyed more than 410,000 "skier days" -- that is, one skier skiing one day. In the 1986-87 season, that statistic had jumped to 522,277 skier days.

West Virginia currently boasts five major ski centers or resorts that are growing in popularity. They are:

-Canaan Valley: near Davis in Tucker County, the Canaan Valley ski area is West Virginia's oldest ski resort, and was the first to be established south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

-Timberline: near the Canaan Valley ski area, Timberline is the state's newest skiing development.

-Silver Creek: near Slaty Fork in Pocahontas County, Silver Creek measures snowfall in excess of 200 inches a year.

-Snowshoe: also in Pocahontas County, Snowshoe's top elevation is 4,848 feet above sea level, and its winter climate is comparable to Montreal's.

-Winterplace: located near the Flat Top exit on I-77, between Beckley and Princeton, Winterplace is drawing skiers from as far away as the Carolinas.

Each of these ski areas offers a variety of lodging arrangements, all are equipped with snowmaking capacities on 80 to 100 percent of their trails, all offer lifts, and Canaan Valley and Winterplace provide night skiing.

In addition to these established ski areas, Oglebay Park in Wheeling and Alpine Lake near Terra Alta also offer downhill skiing.

Anyone seeking more information on West Virginia skiing should call toll-free 1-800-CALL-WVA.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Rejoins the Navy

On December 7, 1941, the battleship U.S.S. **West Virginia** was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Raised and repaired, the **West Virginia** served on active duty for the rest of World War II and after, until it was decommissioned in the late fifties, and was scrapped in 1961.

Interestingly, the battleship **West Virginia** led the convoy of vessels carrying American veterans into Tokyo Bay to witness the surrender ceremonies on board the battleship **Missouri**.

Today, the mast of the old battleship **West Virginia** stands on the campus of West Virginia University.

For nearly three decades, however, no capital ship in the U.S. Navy has carried our state's name on the world's oceans.

In the near future, that situation is going to change.

Currently under construction at Groton, Connecticut, are four advanced, high-tech Trident submarines of the Ohio class.

Working in cooperation with a group of patriotic West Virginia veterans, I have been able to win from the Navy a commitment to name one

of these Trident submarines in honor of our state. The U.S.S. **West Virginia** is scheduled for launching later this year.

In addition, as a result of my efforts, the Navy has informed me that two other vessels scheduled for construction -- a Whidbey Island class dock landing ship, and a Henry J. Kaiser class fleet oiler -- will be named respectively the "Harpers Ferry" and the "Kanawha."

Since the Revolutionary War, West Virginians have been noted for their patriotism and service to our country. In the modern era, West Virginia ranked first in the number of deaths in the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War, and fourth among the states in World War II in war deaths as a percentage of its eligible male population.

That record of participation and sacrifice is one of which West Virginians can be proud. In recognition of that record, the naming of a new Trident submarine in honor of West Virginia, and two other Navy vessels after West Virginia placenames, are well-deserved tributes to the role played by West Virginians in keeping America strong, free, and secure.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan

During his recent visit to this country, newly chosen Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita came to my U.S. Capitol office to meet with me.

In that meeting -- a straightforward and frank session -- I raised a number of concerns about Japanese trade policy with Mr. Takeshita -- concerns shared by West Virginians and other Americans alike.

Last year, for example, our country bought from Japan \$60 billion's worth of goods more than Japan bought from us.

As one means of lowering that trade imbalance, I proposed to Takeshita that the U.S. and Japan study the advantages and disadvantages of opening negotiations to establish a free-trade relationship between our two countries. As I pointed out, free trade between our countries would open more of our markets to one another. A primary American complaint is that Japanese trade regulations too often prohibit American goods from entering the Japanese market by erecting petty barriers -- for instance, claiming that American-made baseball bats do not meet Japanese safety standards, or that Japanese cannot eat American-grown beef because their digestive systems are biologically different. Free trade could end such barriers.

Takeshita told me that he would study the possibility of putting my suggestion into effect upon his return home.

One of my primary concerns in my meeting with Takeshita was to boost Japan's purchases of West Virginia metallurgical coal, and I urged the prime minister to examine that possibility, as well. In recent years, Japan's imports of U.S. metallurgical coal have fallen from 26 million metric tons in 1981, to a projected 10 million metric tons in this Japanese fiscal year.

Noting Japan's continuing need for wood and wood products, I urged Takeshita to consider the possibility of Japanese firms entering into joint ventures with West Virginia enterprises to manufacture furniture and other wood products from West Virginia hardwoods. As I indicated, West Virginia has excellent hardwoods, and joint ventures in the wood area would benefit both West Virginians and Japanese.

I am confident that West Virginia -- already a major player in foreign exporting -- can find even wider opportunities in the overseas arena. I shall keep working to open the world marketplace to West Virginia products, and to create new jobs at home for West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1987 Legislative Achievements To Benefit West Virginia

During the 1987 legislative year, I was able to obtain passage of -- and, in some instances, secure funding for -- a number of initiatives that will benefit West Virginia.

Last year, for example, I won approval of \$575 million in federal funds over a two-year period to continue the Clean Coal Technology Program, an effort which I have sponsored to promote the use of coal in environmentally acceptable ways. I also introduced legislation to expand the Clean Coal Technology Program to encourage the use of clean-coal techniques as a positive means of reducing possible acid rain pollution without resorting to costly and ill-advised government regulations on coal use.

I am especially pleased that I secured \$6 million, with a commitment for an additional \$9 million next year, to establish a National Research Center for Coal and Energy at West Virginia University.

In the area of health care for West Virginians, I secured the third and final payment of federal funds -- \$4.3 million -- for the new cancer center to be built at the University Medical Center in Morgantown. Over the past three years, I have obtained a total of \$13.1 million in federal funds for the cancer center, the first statewide cancer treatment and research cen-

ter in West Virginia.

Besides coal, among West Virginia's greatest natural resources are our hardwood forests. To encourage the growth of a wood-processing industry in our state -- one to build furniture and manufacture other wood products, and create new jobs -- I am advocating the development of a hardwood research center at the Princeton Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Mercer County, for which I secured \$600,000 in federal funds.

The Veterans Administration estimates that roughly 275,000 military veterans live in West Virginia. I am particularly glad, therefore, that I was able to take part in dedicating the new Veterans Administration National Cemetery, for which I had obtained nearly \$2 million in federal funds. Located at Pruntytown in Taylor County, this new cemetery will ultimately accommodate 6,400 graves.

Also of import to veterans, I obtained Senate approval of \$47.5 million to build a large clinical addition to the Marshall University-related VA Medical Center in Huntington.

These efforts represent but some of my ongoing commitment to boost the economy of our state, and to improve the quality of life for all West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More 1987 Legislative Achievements To Benefit West Virginia

In a recent column, I reported on several of my legislative achievements in 1987 to benefit West Virginia in the areas of coal research and development, veterans services, cancer treatment, and wood-product advancement.

In addition to those accomplishments reported, I also obtained authorization of \$30 million worth of military construction projects at a number of West Virginia military sites -- for example, reserve centers, Camp Dawson, and National Guard armories.

In related actions, in accord with my commitment to increase the military and national defense presence in our state, I obtained Pentagon approval of plans to establish six new Army Reserve units in West Virginia with a combined annual economic impact of \$6 million, as well as an Air Force Reserve training facility, and a Coast Guard computer center to be located in the state.

Early in the 100th Congress, I led the successful Senate effort to pass the 1987 Federal-Aid Highway Act, which made West Virginia eligible for an estimated \$105.6 million annually from the federal Highway Trust Fund over a five-year period. That measure also contains \$14.1 million toward construction of the New River Gorge Parkway in southeastern West Virginia, and \$1.6 million for the Chelyan Bridge in Kan

awha County.

West Virginia plays a major role in international trade. In order better to win fairness for West Virginia products overseas, however, I was responsible for moving through the Senate a trade and jobs bill designed to make West Virginia goods more competitive in foreign markets. That bill is awaiting action by a Senate-House conference committee, and I am calling for action on passage of that measure early this year.

Long an advocate of excellence in education, I won approval in the recent past of establishing a national scholarship program to encourage academically talented students to pursue higher education.

My Senate colleagues honored my effort by naming this the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program. In the first ceremonies under this program last June, I was privileged to award Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships to 41 West Virginia high school graduates.

In order to continue granting these \$1,500 federal scholarships nationwide, I obtained \$7.7 million in this year's government funding bill.

I shall continue working to ensure that West Virginia receives a good return on the tax dollars it sends to Washington, and that new opportunities and a better future are opened to the citizens of our state in whatever ways that I can.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Year Ahead for the U.S. Senate

With 1988 underway, most of America's political attention is riveted on the upcoming Presidential election.

Likewise, one third of the Senate seats, and all of the seats in the House of Representatives, are up for election this year.

In spite of upcoming campaign activities, the regular work of Congress must move ahead, and the second session of this 100th Congress faces several issues of interest to West Virginians.

One of the most important matters on which the Senate must vote is the trade and jobs bill currently in a Senate-House conference committee. This legislation will be of concern to West Virginians and all other Americans. Our foreign trade deficit -- heading this year for approximately \$150 billion in favor of foreign countries -- has burdened millions of Americans with joblessness and economic hardship.

Feeling is high in the Senate for passage of legislation to win fairer treatment for our goods overseas and to spur job-creation in our economy. I hope that Congress can complete work on this bill so that it can be sent to the

President for his signature before spring.

Among other issues anticipated to come up in this session are approval of ratification of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty recently signed by the President and Soviet leader Gorbachev; proposals to deal with catastrophic illness among elderly Americans; continued efforts to reduce federal budget deficits; efforts to renew support for elementary and secondary education; and further efforts to ensure improved aviation safety.

I shall also continue my battle for Senate election campaign finance reform. Democracy must not be delivered over to an aristocracy of money, with the Senate controlled by the richest special interest groups. I hope to see campaign finance reform legislation passed this year.

These and other efforts in the Senate will be laying foundations for America's future in a rapidly changing world. Party loyalties are expected in politics, but I believe that party loyalty rates a low priority in the search for solutions to the problems facing America.

February 10, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Catastrophic Health Insurance for Older Americans

Americans sixty-five years old and older make up the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population.

Understandably, responsible voices in our country have long heralded the need to prepare to meet the special requirements in the United States for increased numbers of elderly men and women.

Currently, Congress is hammering out legislation particularly aimed at a basic need of older people: catastrophic health insurance for the elderly.

Again and again, a man or woman who has prudently saved for retirement, is hit by a sudden, unforeseen disastrous illness, the treatment of which reduces him or her to poverty or bankruptcy.

Medicare has helped to soften some of the impact of such blows, but Medicare currently has a number of coverage limits that have blunted its effectiveness in handling catastrophic illnesses.

Catastrophic health insurance would be a hedge against the crushing burden of such a misfortune.

In general, the catastrophic health insurance programs under Congressional consideration would be an optional addition to Medicare, with beneficiaries paying an added premium for coverage. Under a Senate-passed ver-

sion of this legislation, for example, such optional catastrophic coverage would feature unlimited hospital stays after payment of an annual deductible of about \$520. At present, under current Medicare provisions, only hospital stays up to sixty days are covered, with extra beneficiary payments required for stays beyond that time limit. This optional catastrophic health care program would be comparable to a homeowner's insurance policy or automobile insurance. People buy such policies hoping never to have need of using them.

But if their homes burn down, or their automobiles are involved in accidents, they know that they are protected against financial ruin.

Just so would catastrophic health insurance be valuable -- for that unplanned illness that can wreck one's retirement security.

Catastrophic health care insurance has found broad bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. As a backer of this legislation, I look forward to its final passage, and toward its being signed into law.

Older Americans deserve the security and protection that catastrophic health care insurance would afford.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Senate Mission to Our NATO Allies

Recently, in preparation for the upcoming Senate debates on the INF (Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces) arms-control treaty signed last year by President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev, I led a bipartisan delegation of Senators to five nations in Europe.

Included among the Senators were the chairmen of the Senate Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence. The ranking Republican member on the Armed Services Committee was also part of the group.

Before the INF treaty can go into effect, the U.S. Senate must give its constitutionally mandated consent to the resolution of ratification.

Prior to the Senate's action, however, my Senate colleagues and I wanted to reassure our Western European NATO allies of America's continuing commitment to the alliance, and to find out how they view this treaty. Central to our mission, as well, was to explore attitudes about the new style of Soviet leadership, and the course for the security of the NATO alliance beyond the INF treaty.

Among the leaders our group met with were Prime Minister Thatcher of Britain, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, President Mitterrand of France, the President and Prime Minister of Turkey, Prime Minister Goria of Italy, and the Minister of Defense of the

Netherlands.

Most West Virginians have told me that they favor arms-control efforts, such as the INF treaty, as long as those efforts enhance America's national security. One of my foremost concerns in judging the INF treaty, is that the vital security interests of the United States and our NATO allies be enhanced, at the same time that we attempt to increase chances for world peace.

Understandably, we found some concern among our allies about U.S. intentions to stay the course with NATO.

We sought to reassure the Europeans that their security is America's security, as well.

Recognizing that the Soviets would like to splinter the NATO alliance, we underlined the need to present a continued united front toward the Soviet Union. The European heads of state were in complete agreement with that goal.

Signing the INF treaty last December has opened the door to new optimism among the people of the United States and Europe.

In opening that door, however, I want to make sure that we maintain a strong-willed, united, and well-armed NATO alliance that will continue to be a bulwark for dealing with the threat of Soviet power to world peace, and a mainstay of U.S. defense security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Getting Europe More Interested In West Virginia

During my recent Senate mission to our NATO allies in Europe, I met with a number of European government officials and industrialists, looking for new opportunities to boost West Virginia's economy and create jobs for West Virginians.

In Munich, I met with the chairman of the board of the giant West German Siemens Corporation.

Siemens is already involved in West Virginia's economy, currently building a telephone switching station in Moundsville, and having set up a \$2 million training program with West Virginia University to train telephone company employees to use the new switching system, largely as a result of WVU's participation in the Software Valley movement anchored there.

At our meeting, I promoted West Virginia as a site for possible future Siemens U.S. expansion. I underlined our state's strong foundation in basic heavy industries, but added that West Virginia wants to diversify its economy. In addition, I praised West Virginia's able work force.

In Paris, I discussed added West Virginia prospects with the chairman and chief executive officer of the Rhone-Poulenc Group, which

owns a large chemical complex at Institute. In that meeting, I encouraged Rhone-Poulenc to invest more in West Virginia.

In Ankara, I learned that Turkey is planning to build new power generating plants. I reminded Turkish officials of West Virginia's vast reserves of quality steam coal, and urged them to import West Virginia coal to meet the demands of Turkey's new power plants.

I enjoyed a promising meeting in Rome with the top officials of the Italian National Electrical Energy Agency.

Italy is currently developing revised energy plans, and is particularly interested in using U.S.-developed clean-coal technologies.

I encouraged the Italian government to step up imports of high-grade West Virginia coal.

At this juncture of West Virginia's economic history, we need to pursue every possible means of broadening our state's industrial base.

Certainly, increased West Virginia commerce with our European trading partners offers us attractive options for creating new job and prosperity opportunities for West Virginians.

March 2, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Just the Beginning of the Battle

In 1958, I ran for the United States Senate for the first time.

In that same election, my longtime colleague Jennings Randolph ran for the other Senate seat from West Virginia.

Together in that election, we spent between us approximately \$50,000 for campaign expenses.

Today, television advertising and other sophisticated campaign techniques have sent campaign costs soaring.

In 1976, for example, the total spent across the country on Senate campaigns was approximately \$38.1 million.

In contrast, the total for the 1986 Senate elections came to more than \$130 million, with losing candidates spending an average of \$2.3 million while winners averaged spending \$3.01 million.

Worse, *Conservative Digest* magazine estimates that, by 1992, the average Senatorial election campaign will cost \$9 million.

Few candidates can afford to pay such astronomical costs from their own resources. Consequently, anyone seeking the office of U.S. Senator must spend countless time searching for out-of-state campaign funds.

The need for such funds has given rise to hundreds of special-interest "political action committees" or PAC's, whose members contribute money to be dispersed to candidates. In the 1986 Senate elections, PAC's contri-

buted 27 percent of the winning candidates' funds.

Nothing is illegal about PAC's, *per se*. However, the massive role played by PAC's in Senate campaigns gives the impression that seats in the Senate are up for sale to the highest special-interest bidder.

To reverse the spiraling costs of Senate campaigns, and to limit the perceived influence of PAC's in electing Senators, I co-sponsored, with Senator David Boren from Oklahoma, the Senatorial Election Campaign Act of 1987, which places a voluntary limit on campaign expenditures by Congressional candidates, and a limit on aggregate PAC contributions to such candidates -- based on a state's population.

Thus far, opponents of campaign financing reform have filibustered against this legislation, keeping it from coming to a final vote on eight occasions, most recently last month.

However, the battle to reform Senate campaign financing and put a cap on election expenses, has just begun.

I believe that American voters are fed up with the galactic heights to which election costs have catapulted.

Therefore, I shall continue the fight to bring Senatorial election financing under control, and to bring reason back to the costs of campaigning for the U.S. Senate.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thumbs Down on a Foreign Steel Loan

A recent loan proposal by the World Bank -- an international agency generously underwritten by U.S. tax dollars -- deeply concerns me.

That proposal contemplates granting Mexico a \$400 million loan to revitalize its steel industry.

I am sympathetic toward helping Mexico overcome its economic problems.

However, I strongly object when such help comes at the expense of the American steel industry, and a group of my colleagues -- Senators Rockefeller, Howard Metzenbaum and John Glenn of Ohio, John Heinz of Pennsylvania, Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, and Alan Simpson of Wyoming -- joined me in making that clear to U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in a recent meeting.

With the world steel market suffering an excess steel-making capacity of roughly 200 million tons per year, several foreign steel producers regularly cut their prices and ship their surplus steel tonnage to our country, undercutting our domestic producers and forcing more U.S. steelworkers out of their jobs.

The steel industry in West Virginia and throughout the United States is fighting for its life. In recent years, our steel industry has invested more than \$8 billion in modernization.

While the American steel industry is struggling to survive, it makes no sense to me to send U.S. tax dollars, through the World Bank or any other agency, to subsidize the Mexican steel industry.

Because of the potential for increased damage to our domestic steel industry and a greater loss of jobs from an influx of Mexican steel into the U.S. market, I requested point-blank that Secretary Baker oppose the Mexican steel loan.

Moreover, the Senate adopted a resolution that I co-sponsored asking the federal government to do everything possible to prevent the World Bank from granting the Mexican loan.

Unfortunately, though Secretary Baker opposed the loan, and his representative to the World Bank cast the twenty-percent U.S. vote against it, the World Bank nonetheless approved the loan to revitalize the Mexican steel industry.

In spite of that disappointment, the Senate has sent a message to world financial and other aid programs dependent in large measure on American underwriting.

That message is that, from now forward, America will look more closely at proposals before agreeing to approve loans or financing that might cost West Virginia and American jobs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improving Commuter Airline Safety

Over a decade ago, "government deregulation" was a popular political cause.

One field that obtained quick deregulation was airline transportation. Proponents of deregulation claimed that the traveling public would benefit from increased competition, reduced fares, greater efficiency, and better service.

Though airline deregulation's record on those counts has been spotty, its impact has been particularly severe in rural states and on small communities.

In West Virginia, for example, deregulation has meant the loss of much regularly scheduled commercial service, increased dependence on small commuter airlines and aircraft, and the tripling of airfares.

Those problems aside, however, another facet of air travel has declined since deregulation took effect.

That area is airline safety.

In 1987, commercial and commuter airlines had both the highest accident and fatality rates in over a decade. Scheduled airlines suffered 31 accidents, the most since 1974, which involved the loss of 231 lives.

At the same time, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported 1,063 near midair collisions, an increase of 26 percent over 1986. Alarming-ly, 40 percent of those near-collisions involved commercial airliners.

Especially important for West Virginia air travellers were the statistics

on commuter airlines. Last year, commuter lines carried approximately 30 million passengers, up from 9.2 million in 1977.

In 1987, commuter airlines experienced 35 accidents, taking 58 lives.

In just the last four months, however, commuter airline accidents have taken 56 lives!

The airline industry estimates that, by the early 1990's, annual commuter line fliers are likely to double to 60 million per year.

With West Virginia so dependent on commuter lines, I have been increasingly concerned about the adequacy of safety standards and practices among small commuter airlines, which led me to author the legislation that created the Aviation Safety Commission.

In late 1986, I also requested the General Accounting Office to investigate the impact of deregulation on commuter lines. That report--and safety reports now underway by the Office of Technology Assessment, the Aviation Safety Commission, and the FAA--will be made public in the near future.

I will not be content to leave airline safety at the report level, however. I shall continue to beat the drum for airline safety, and to keep working to tighten the laws and standards by which air safety is measured and enforced.

West Virginia air travellers deserve the highest safety possible for the price they pay for their tickets.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Defense-related Opportunities for West Virginia

Currently, West Virginia ranks thirty-ninth in the total of federal defense dollars per state.

That standing includes total federal funds going to primary and secondary defense-related contracts that annually draw millions of dollars into our state's economy, as well as military salaries and purchases made to maintain the several military activities across West Virginia.

Knowing that our state can benefit by increased defense dollars coming into West Virginia, I continue to work to raise the defense and military profile in West Virginia.

As a result of my efforts, the Defense Department has agreed to activate seven new military units in West Virginia that will add to our state's defense role, and will bring significant new military opportunities to West Virginians.

The most recently announced of these additions is an Army Reserve medical unit to be located in Huntington, allowing it to draw upon the talented professionals associated with the Marshall University School of Medicine, area nursing schools, and the VA Medical Center.

Reaching its full strength of about 400 part-time reservists by 1990, this new unit will generate an annual economic impact of more than \$4 million in the Huntington area.

The other six new military units include three components of a combat brigade, an equipment maintenance company, a ground ambulance company, and a military intelligence company. These six units, once they are at full strength, will employ more than 700 West Virginia part-time reservists.

The units, which are scheduled to be activated in Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989, are:

- a 59-member Headquarters detachment of the 3rd Brigade, 80th Training Division, to be located in Charleston;
- a 128-member 3rd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Charleston;
- a 128-member 2nd Battalion, 320th Regiment of the 3rd Brigade, Beckley;
- a 218-member 396th Heavy Equipment Maintenance Company, Logan;
- a 99-member 473rd Medical Company ground ambulance Company, Ripley; and
- a 90-member Army Reserve 91st Military Intelligence Company, Morgantown.

Planning for these new units is moving ahead, and my ongoing efforts to increase the presence of the military and the Defense Department in West Virginia continue to bear fruit.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Harnessing a New Coal Technology

Coal is America's most abundant fossil fuel energy resource.

In recent decades, however, alternative fuels, coupled with environmental concerns, have combined to render coal less attractive as an energy source.

Mindful of those obstacles, in 1985, I introduced and won passage of legislation that initiated the Clean Coal Technology Program.

The central purpose of this program, joining federal and private funding, is to produce and demonstrate new technologies that will cause coal to be burned in cleaner and environmentally acceptable ways. This program is a keystone in the effort to develop advanced technologies that will promote the efficient, economical, and ecologically safe use of coal, including coal varieties found throughout West Virginia.

Recently, I participated in the groundbreaking for the first large-scale demonstration project under this program, making use of a state-of-the-art coal-burning technology.

American Electric Power, which furnishes 55 percent of the electricity consumed in West Virginia and consumes 15 percent of the coal produced in our state, is building a **pressurized fluidized bed combustion (PFBC)** demonstration facility at its currently deactivated Tidd

power plant near Wheeling and Weirton at Brilliant, Ohio.

The PFBC process produces energy by burning an agitated mix of crushed coal and limestone, which absorbs the sulphur oxides associated with coal-burning and which many blame for producing acid rain. Indeed, PFBC removes up to 90 percent of the sulphur oxides in coal, and produces less than half the nitrogen oxides of a conventional coal-burning generator--a figure 50 percent under the limits required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition, because of its ability to burn high-sulphur as well as low-sulphur coal, the pressurized fluidized bed combustion process offers greater efficiency and lower fuel consumption than conventional coal-fired power plants, promising to deliver electricity at lower costs to individual and corporate consumers.

Pressurized fluidized bed combustion test facilities have proved themselves in locations as varied as Sweden, Britain, Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, and at Rivesville in Marion County.

This new coal-burning technology suggests a bright and vital future for coal, yielding an increased demand for this most versatile resource well into the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reversing America's Trade Decline

From the end of World War II forward, with the industrial infrastructures of Europe and Japan in ruins, America enjoyed a positive foreign trade surplus that lasted for several years.

American goods were prized worldwide. Our mines and factories boomed, and our seaports annually shipped out billions of dollars worth of products stamped, "Made in the USA."

Western Europe and Japan long ago recovered from the damage of World War II. In addition, countries throughout the developing world--South Korea, Brazil, Taiwan, Singapore, India, and Mexico, to name a few--have entered the world trade market in such diverse areas as automaking, steel, electronics, and textiles.

Adopting free trade policies, America has opened its markets to foreign imports almost without restriction. As a result, in recent years, we have imported more goods than we have exported. We are paying out more money than we are getting back. Worse, American workers have lost jobs to foreign competitors. As American

factories have closed, we have watched our industrial base erode away.

Foreign trade is particularly important to West Virginia. Indeed, though our state is virtually landlocked, West Virginia is one of the leading states in overseas trade.

In order to reverse America's foreign trade deficit, an Omnibus Trade bill is being readied for final action by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The result of a year of hard, bipartisan work, this trade bill would put into place policies to open world markets more fairly to American goods, promote our country's long-term competitive strengths through education and research, retrain workers and retool factories in threatened industries and communities, and prevent foreign investors from dominating industries vital to our national security.

I plan to call this legislation up for Senate action as soon as it is ready, and I hope the Executive Branch will join in supporting this move to restore balance in America's foreign trade.

April 13, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Trade Bill for Working Americans

The recent report of February's \$13.8 billion U.S. trade deficit--the highest since last October--sent the Dow Jones stock average crashing by more than one hundred points, the value of the U.S. dollar tumbling, and interest rates rising to a three-month high.

February's deficit also underlines anew the critical need to enact the comprehensive Omnibus Trade bill that has been crafted over the last two years by Congress.

World trade and financial centers are waiting to see if America is serious about taking the offensive against unfair trade practices, and against foreign countries that want unhindered access to the U.S. market but deny that access to American goods in their markets.

Unfortunately, seemingly without considering such features of this Omnibus Trade bill as its provisions to spur America's competitiveness through educational initiatives and worker retraining, the White House has repeatedly attacked this farsighted legislation as "protectionist," and threatens to veto it.

The Omnibus Trade bill is in no sense "protectionist." On the contrary,

it provides incentives for protectionist countries to abandon policies that exclude or penalize American goods, and to open their markets more freely to our products.

Another feature of the Omnibus Trade bill that has earned it wide support is a provision to give employees more reasonable notice in advance of plant closings.

Tragically, a considerable number of West Virginians and West Virginia communities have experienced firsthand the impact of industrial closings--too often, the result of unfair foreign competition. With little or no notice, hundreds of workers find themselves out of work, their home mortgages in default, their lives in turmoil, and their futures shipwrecked. Also without warning, whole communities are left with their tax bases demolished and their economies in shreds.

I hope that the White House abandons its veto strategy against this important legislation, and joins Congress in the effort to restore the trade balance, save American and West Virginia jobs, and make international trade freer and fairer for American goods.

April 20, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Vietnam Veterans Counseling Centers to Open

Thirteen years ago, the last American troops withdrew from Vietnam.

For countless Vietnam War veterans, however, inner wounds from America's long involvement in that conflict have not healed.

Overall, West Virginia has more than 67,000 Vietnam-era veterans, ranking second in the nation in the number of participants in the Vietnam War as a percentage of male population.

Because of the unique nature of that conflict, large numbers of those veterans have faced continuing problems in readjusting to civilian life.

To assist our West Virginia Vietnam veterans, earlier I obtained federal funds to establish special counseling centers in Charleston, Morgantown, and Martinsburg, with a satellite center in Huntington. These centers offer vocational and personal counseling, as well as referral services where needed.

The case load at the Charleston center -- serving over 45,000 veterans in a 150-mile radius -- has been so heavy that added centers in southern West Virginia seemed advisable.

As a result of approval of a directive that I placed in the committee

report accompanying the Veterans Administration's 1988 funding bill, the VA will locate new Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling Centers in Beckley and Princeton, with an outreach center in Logan.

Vietnam-era veterans in Raleigh, Mercer, McDowell, and Logan Counties number roughly 13,000. Two full-time counselors in the centers in Beckley and Princeton will offer services to area veterans five days a week. The outreach center in Logan will be staffed by one counselor four days per week.

All of West Virginia's veterans deserve our gratitude, admiration, and assistance. I shall continue my efforts to provide that assistance to veterans throughout our state.

Currently, I am exploring with the VA avenues by which to expand services to Vietnam-era veterans in the Northern Panhandle. I hope that these efforts, coupled with the directive that I added to the committee report accompanying the VA funding bill, will extend to more West Virginia veterans from the Vietnam era the special assistance and counseling that they may need in leading fuller, more successful civilian lives.

April 27, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The 1988 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships

A strong believer in education and scholastic achievement, I have annually awarded U.S. Savings Bonds to the valedictorians of West Virginia high school graduating classes since 1969. With this year's awards, more than 5,000 Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards will have been presented to graduating valedictorians in our state.

The success of my Scholastic Recognition Awards program in West Virginia encouraged me, in 1985, to author legislation establishing a somewhat similar but much larger scholastic achievement program on a national scale. Congress approved my legislation.

At the suggestion of U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, these awards were officially designated **The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships.**

Awarded on the basis of scholastic merit, these scholarships are provided to graduating high school students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited institution of higher education.

Valued at \$1,500 each for the first year of college study only, The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships are allocated on the basis of the student population of each state, with no state

to receive fewer than 10 scholarships.

In West Virginia, the Byrd Scholars are selected by the state Department of Education, based on nominations from the state's high schools.

In 1987, a total of 4,749 Byrd Scholarships were awarded in the fifty states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, with West Virginia receiving 41.

For 1988, 5,017 students across the country have been named Byrd Scholars, with West Virginia receiving 48 awards.

On May 7, at ceremonies at the Charleston Civic Center, I was privileged personally to present the Byrd Honors Scholarships to outstanding West Virginia winners from all sections of our state.

Throughout my life, I have been committed to the belief that education can open doors of opportunity for young people. Likewise, I have felt a lifelong indebtedness to those unselfish teachers and others who encouraged me to reach for the highest goals of which I was capable.

I congratulate the 1988 West Virginia winners of The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships, and I hope that they, too, will be encouraged by these awards to strive for excellence in all endeavors in which they take part.

May 7, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Acid Rain Meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Mulroney

For some time, Canada has been clamoring for the United States to impose stringent controls on power plant emissions, in order to reduce downwind acid rain damage across the border in northeastern Canada.

Unfortunately, Canada's acid-rain solutions call for costly quick-fix remedies that would mandate outdated and inefficient scrubbers on American smokestacks, would add an estimated \$15 billion to \$30 billion annually to American electric bills, and would cause countless coal mines to close and force hundreds of miners out of work.

Likewise concerned with controlling acid rain, I authored and won passage of the Clean Coal Technology Program, for which I also obtained nearly \$1 billion in federal funding for research and development of new technologies to burn coal more cleanly and efficiently. Demonstration projects such as fluidized-bed boilers have proved dramatically more effective than conventional pollution devices, and are currently being tested for commercial application.

In his recent visit to Washington, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney met with me, and I

made my case with him for the Clean Coal Technology Program as a preferred solution to much of the acid rain problem.

I told the prime minister that legislating expensive, mandatory regulatory controls to limit sulfur emissions from power plants is not the right answer to acid rain. I further charted the progress being made by the Clean Coal Technology Program, and recommended the prime minister's support for this effort. As I pointed out, given reasonably more time, the Clean Coal Technology Program promises not only to reduce sulfur emissions drastically, but nitrogen oxide emissions as well, with greater economy to consumers.

My Clean Coal Technology Program is a significant leap forward in the battle to solve the acid rain problem and to ensure a cleaner, healthier environment. Just as important, however, while it would be eliminating a prickly issue between the U.S. and Canada, the Clean Coal Technology Program could, at the same time, also open potential new markets and demands for West Virginia's superlative coals, and more job opportunities for West Virginia miners.

May 11, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Federal Defense Construction Dollars for West Virginia

In my ongoing efforts to obtain more federal defense dollars for West Virginia, and to create more jobs in our state, I am currently working on a military construction program involving a number of projects, most of which have been authorized and funded by Congress.

In the 1989 Defense Authorization Bill, currently under Congressional consideration, for example, I have been successful in including several important West Virginia construction projects.

Among these are the following:

- \$3.3 million earmarked to build an aircraft parking ramp and holding pad for the Air National Guard unit at Charleston's Yeager Airport;
- \$3.7 million for the construction of two barracks, two dining facilities, a supply building, and a troop medical clinic at Camp Dawson in Preston County;
- \$5.1 million for an Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility and \$3.3 million for an Army Reserve Center with Maintenance Facility at Parkersburg;
- \$3.9 million for an Air National Guard Avionics Shop, an Operational

Training Facility, and alterations to the Vehicle Maintenance Shop at Martinsburg;

- \$2.6 million for an Air National Guard Jet Fuel Storage Complex and a Squadron Operations Addition at Charleston;
- \$600,000 for an Air Force Reserve Civil Engineering Training Facility and \$150,000 for Army Reserve land acquisition at Morgantown;
- \$325,000 for an Army National Guard Property and Fiscal Office addition at Buckhannon; and
- \$175,000 for Army Reserve land acquisition at Beckley.

In addition, I have been able to include in the Defense Authorization Bill \$3 million for necessary renovations at West Virginia's Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County, one of the few federally owned defense plants in the country.

I am encouraged that these West Virginia defense projects have won authorization. I shall be working to push these projects to completion, in order that their economic impact on our state's economy will be translated into new jobs and greater opportunities for West Virginians.

May 18, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taming Floodwaters in West Virginia

People familiar with West Virginia know that flooding is a chronic problem in many sections of our state.

Consequently, one of my ongoing priorities has been to obtain flood control programs for some of our most notorious flood-endangered areas.

One such project has been the R.D. Bailey Dam on the Guyandotte River above Logan, for which I obtained approximately \$208 million in federal funds. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, R.D. Bailey Dam, operable since 1979, has saved more than \$58 million in flood damage.

Another major flood control project, for which I helped obtain \$212 million for construction and development, is the Stonewall Jackson Dam, near Weston. Recently dedicated, the Stonewall Jackson Dam harnesses the West Fork River, which flooded Weston and other downriver communities 15 times from 1966 to 1983. The Stonewall Jackson Dam proved its effectiveness in 1985, when then-80 percent complete, it saved Weston and other West Fork Valley communities \$25.6 million in flood damages, by Army Corps estimates.

A flood control program of a different nature is ongoing in the Tug Fork Valley, from McDowell

County to Williamson and downstream. Subject historically to devastating floods, the Tug Fork is being progressively contained by a series of flood walls and other control measures, for which I have thus far obtained approximately \$58.7 million in federal funds.

Also underway are flood control projects in the Upper Mud River Watershed in Lincoln, Boone, and Cabell counties, for which I have obtained \$6.3 million in federal funds, and the Soak Creek Watershed in Raleigh County, for which I have obtained roughly \$5.5 million in federal funds.

Another area in which I am working is the combined Cheat-Greenbrier-Potomac Watersheds Region. Following the record 1985 floods in that section of our state, I obtained approximately \$330 million in federal funds for reconstruction and recovery in those areas.

At my request, the Army Corps of Engineers is currently conducting studies to develop plans for the best means of providing flood protection to the people in those watersheds.

Flooding is a serious threat to many West Virginia communities. I shall continue my efforts to obtain flood control programs to protect West Virginians from raging rivers and deadly floods.

May 25, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

My Vision for West Virginia's Economic Future

As I was preparing for the Software Valley VII Conference in Huntington, I reflected on the reasons for the growing Software Valley movement in West Virginia, and on my hopes for our state's economic future.

A century ago, West Virginia was in the infancy of its great industrial boom. The mature industries growing out of that boom produced the West Virginia with which we are most familiar -- coal, steel, timber, chemicals, gas, oil, and other heavy labor-intensive industries.

But we live today in an era of changing economies, changing trade patterns, changing technologies, and changing competition.

Throughout my career, I have worked to promote West Virginia's traditional industries. Those industries still command my interest and my concern.

But, likewise, I am interested in laying new economic foundations for West Virginia's future -- in setting the stage for West Virginia to compete in the world not as it was, and not as we might like it to be or to return to being, but to compete in the world as it is.

That is one of the main reasons that I joined in launching the Software

Valley movement.

Survival in today's economy is largely a matter of keeping several technological steps ahead of one's rivals. Industrial success today is a matter of being technologically intensive.

Through the Software Valley movement, I hope that we can help refocus West Virginia's economic vision on high technology, that we can create industries in our state based on the use of flexible computer manufacturing, and that we can pioneer in creating business and economic possibilities in our state never before dreamed of here.

Above all, we must lay new economic foundations on which men and women can build their lives and support their families.

Certainly, we can draw on some federal programs to help improve the quality of life in our communities. But in this era of soaring national debt and rising cries for federal economy, basing West Virginia's future on federal largesse is an unwise strategy.

In the final analysis, West Virginia's future rests on self-initiative and private enterprise -- such as we are promoting through our Software Valley movement.

June 1, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 125th Birthday

On June 20th, West Virginia celebrates its 125th anniversary as the thirty-fifth state.

At the time West Virginia was admitted to the Union, America was torn by a cruel and bloody civil conflict.

West Virginia itself was gripped by a particularly vicious type of guerilla warfare, which saw brothers and sons, neighbors and long-time friends facing one another across battle lines and in mountain skirmishes.

After the war, however, West Virginians who had been Union and Confederate supporters alike came together to weld their state into an industrial and economic giant. Beginning with the bare skeleton of an infrastructure, West Virginians joined in building railroads, carving roads through a rough terrain, bridging rivers, opening mines and factories, and nurturing a school system.

West Virginians today are not faced with civil turmoil and military conflict.

Our state is, nevertheless, confronting challenges of historic proportions -- challenges that I believe West Virginians are capable of meeting and through which West Virginia can achieve continued growth and development.

In the contemporary world of international trade and technological competition, much of West

Virginia's traditional economy has been severely impacted.

Already, however, West Virginians from diverse backgrounds and varied interests -- political leaders, business and industrial leaders, labor leaders, educators, and researchers -- are coming together to reflect upon and to begin shaping West Virginia's future.

I have been particularly heartened to witness this response in the Software Valley movement -- an effort that is now reaching into virtually every corner of the state.

Through the Software Valley movement, state leaders are looking seriously at technology's future in West Virginia -- how computer manufacturing might revolutionize our manufacturing sector, how the schools and universities might increase educational and training opportunities to prepare students to work in high-tech industries, and how labor and management can ally to understand and use new technologies to create profits and jobs.

As West Virginia celebrates its 125th birthday, we have an opportunity to lay the foundations of a renewed prosperity for our state. Let us continue working together to make West Virginia's next century-and-a-quarter even more successful than its first 125 years.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Religious Freedom and Soviet "Glasnost"

America's heritage of religious liberty is a key to our nation's strength.

Indeed, as our Founding Fathers recognized two centuries ago in the Bill of Rights, freedom of religion and freedom of worship are the birthright of all men and women.

Ironically, even the constitution of the Soviet Union promises freedom of religion to the citizens of that country.

In fact, however, throughout roughly seven decades of communist domination, religious believers in the Soviet Union--Christian, Jewish, Moslem, and otherwise--have been subject to chronic and regular persecution and repression by state authorities.

More recently, though, following his principle of "glasnost," or openness, Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev has authorized the printing and distribution of 100,000 Bibles.

Earlier this month, during my trip to Moscow at President Reagan's invitation to witness the formal exchange of documents marking the ratification of the historic Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, I commended Gorbachev on his action with regard to the Bibles.

However, I further urged Gorbachev to show that "glasnost" knows no

religious boundaries by allowing more Bibles to be distributed, and by translating the Bible into the many native languages of the diverse ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

Behind my interest lies more than just a concern that the census of Bibles in the Soviet Union increase. I firmly believe that out of freedom of religion grow other liberties and other qualities without which humane and civilized society is weakened and crippled.

Indeed, our pioneer forbearers and the Founding Fathers lay a foundation on this continent of a nation rooted in strong religious faith. Our basic ideals of law and justice, of individual and human rights, of social and community responsibility, and of our international role in the world are based on religious principles.

Freedom of religion and freedom of worship are pillars of the American way of life. If such ideals took firm footing in the Soviet Union, our two nations would have new common ground on which to pursue world peace.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." If true freedom of worship is ever allowed in the Soviet Union, liberty will prevail in the Soviet Union, as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Highway Corridor "H," Tug Fork Flood Control, and Other West Virginia Projects

The United States Senate recently passed the 1988 Energy and Water Bill.

In this bill, I was successful in including several items earmarking federal funds for important West Virginia projects.

Among those items was a provision adding \$2 million in planning and design money for Appalachian Regional Highway Corridor "H," a four-lane route linking West Virginia's eastern panhandle with Interstate-79.

I am also working on another legislative front to obtain \$16 million to construct a section of Corridor "H" north of Buckhannon. Corridor "H" -- roughly 135 miles in length -- would pass through Hardy, Grant, Pendleton, Randolph, Upshur, and Lewis counties. Corridor "H" is vital to West Virginia's future development.

Another item for which I won approval in the Energy and Water Bill was \$46 million to advance the ongoing Tug Fork flood control project in southeastern West Virginia, including \$22.6 million for a floodwall and pump station in Williamson and a floodwall in

West Williamson, \$3.9 million for land acquisition and floodwall preparation at Matewan, and \$2 million for non-structural work in lower Mingo County.

The bill also includes a number of other projects important for West Virginia that I supported, such as \$60 million for continued construction of the Gallipolis Locks and Dam on the Ohio River near Point Pleasant; \$14.2 million for Lock and Dam 7 at Gray's Landing north of Morgantown on the Monongahela River; \$2.8 million for Lock 8 on the Monongahela; \$6.5 million for the Winfield Lock and Dam on the Kanawha River in Putnam County; \$13.3 million for recreational facilities at the Stonewall Jackson Lake and Dam in Lewis County; and approximately \$1.84 million for flood control studies in the Potomac River, Monongahela River (including the Cheat), Island Creek, and Cabin Creek basins.

This important Energy and Water Appropriations Bill is moving quickly through Congress, and I hope that it will be enacted into law without delay.

June 22, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Hotlines: Information You Can Use

West Virginians have frequently requested information on a variety of federal programs, services, and opportunities. Such information is often as near as the telephone.

I have compiled the following list of toll-free federal hotlines that may help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions. I hope that these numbers will prove useful.

- Retired Army Pay Problems 1-800-428-2290
- Cancer Information, Department of
Health and Human Services 1-800-638-6694
- National Runaway Switchboard 1-800-621-4000
(for parents and runaways to leave messages)
- Parents Anonymous (child abuse) 1-800-421-0353
- Consumer Product Safety Commission 1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints, fact sheets)
- Environmental Protection Agency 1-800-424-9346
(hazardous waste information)
- Army Recruitment and Employment
Information 1-800-872-2769
- Marine Corps Recruitment and Employment
Information 1-800-423-2600
- Navy Recruitment and Employment
Information 1-800-327-6289
- Pesticide Emergency Information
Clearinghouse 1-800-858-7378
- Federal Emergency Management Agency... 1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)
- National Health Information
Clearinghouse 1-800-336-4797
- Small Business Administration 1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)
- Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ... 1-800-424-5401
(mortgage rate information)
- Social Security Administration 1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)
- Veterans Benefits Counseling 1-800-642-3520
- Transportation Department 1-800-424-9393
(auto safety information and complaints)
- Washington, D.C., Central Reservation
Center 1-800-554-2220
(information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)

June 29, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Shutting Down The Child Pornography Industry

Sadly, the sexual exploitation of children in America is a booming business. Child pornography movies abound, and telephone solicitations such as "dial-a-porn" are all too common.

There are federal laws in effect to protect our children from this kind of abuse, but, unfortunately, loopholes and new technologies exist that crimp prosecutors' efforts to eliminate these unsavory activities.

I am co-sponsoring legislation in the Senate that would close existing loopholes and toughen federal laws prohibiting child pornography and adult obscenity activity.

Incredibly, current law does not prohibit a parent from selling his child's services for use in pornographic materials. This measure would make it illegal for a parent or guardian of a minor to sell that child's services for use in the production of pornography, and it would establish stiff criminal penalties for violation.

Equally important, this proposed law would prohibit the transmission of obscenity over cable or subscription television. As to "dial-a-porn" messages, this legislation would make it a felony to transmit explicit sexual or sexually obscene messages over phone lines.

Unfortunately, computer technology has advanced the proliferation of

pornography and obscenity. This measure would establish criminal penalties for a person who uses a computer to advertise, distribute, or receive child pornography.

Additionally, the legislation would make it a felony to sell any child pornography or material that has been declared obscene on federal property, which includes federal lands and military bases. There are some large areas of federal property in seven states which lack any obscenity laws: Alaska, Maine, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Federal prosecutors across the country are working to stem the flow of pornographic and obscene materials, but they need the weapons to win this battle. This legislation would give our prosecutors needed tools, such as the authorization to obtain court orders for wiretaps pertaining to obscenity offenses.

The Department of Justice estimates that the pornography industry is a \$4 billion-a-year business. This highly organized enterprise all too often preys on our young for profit.

There is nothing more important than protecting our children. I am hopeful that this legislation can be passed by Congress this year and signed into law in the effort to shut down this despicable industry.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reauthorizing the Endangered Species Act

West Virginians rightly take pride in the matchless natural beauty of our state, and in the innumerable species of animals and other wildlife found in West Virginia.

Unfortunately, not all states or regions of our country are as abundantly blessed as is our state. In many places, destruction of forests and other natural habitats has spelled the extinction of many varieties of plants, animals, and birds.

Wisely reacting to that threat, in 1973 Congress passed the Endangered Species Act. As a result, though reportedly 80 more species of plants and animals have vanished in America since that passage, untold numbers of other species have been saved from thoughtless destruction.

Currently pending for Senate action is a reauthorization of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, a measure that I support, and which I am seeking to move toward Senate passage without undue controversy.

However, this reauthorization bill has been targeted by certain interests as a potential legislative vehicle for a number of controversial amendments. In some cases, such amend-

ments might have nothing to do with endangered species, but Senate rules provide no defense against their being attached to this bill.

I am particularly concerned, for example, that proponents of unwise and precipitous acid rain legislation not attach an unwarranted and expensive acid rain provision to the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act. Such an action would kill the bill.

The only way in which to assuredly prevent such crippling amendments from being attached to this act, to forestall a filibuster against it, or to keep it from being mired down in controversial debate, is to reach a "consent agreement" on the bill before calling it up for Senate action.

That is the course that I am following now -- seeking an agreement to bring the reauthorization bill to the floor for consideration with only certain specified amendments to be offered.

I hope that my negotiations on this issue reach a conclusion soon, and that the Endangered Species Act will enjoy an expedited and deserved reauthorization.

July 13, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Cabinet Status for the Veterans Administration

With my firm support, the United States Senate recently passed legislation important to West Virginia's approximately 224,000 veterans, and to their nearly 30 million fellow veterans and their dependents across our country.

In an overwhelming vote, the Senate passed S. 533, a bill to give the Veterans Administration Cabinet-level status.

The Veterans Administration (VA) was created in 1930, when Congress consolidated three veterans agencies--the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions of the Interior Department, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The new agency served 4.7 million veterans with a staff of just over 30,000 full-time employees.

Developments since World War II--a growing number of veterans, benefits under the GI bill, the VA health system, and an expanding National Cemetery System--have made the VA the largest independent agency in the Federal Government, with more than 200,000 full-time employees serving an enormous constituency of veterans and their families.

Currently, the VA administers the largest health-care delivery system in the world--a network of 172 medical centers, 229 outpatient clinics, 117 nursing-

care units, and 16 domiciliaries, for a total of almost 90,000 beds. Last year, for example, the VA outpatient clinics handled a total of 20 million visits.

In addition, the VA also runs 111 cemeteries, and administers thousands upon thousands of pension, compensation, and home loan guarantee and life insurance programs. Almost 89 million persons are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services.

In light of our national commitment to care for our deserving veterans, the role that those veterans played in maintaining our nation's strength and security in peace and war, and the heightened interest on the part of veterans in national issues, I believe that it is appropriate to elevate the Veterans Administration to Cabinet status, thus giving veterans a greater representation in our government councils.

The Senate bill now goes to a conference with members of the House of Representatives, which has passed a similar bill, to iron out any differences between the two measures.

I shall continue to work to see that the resulting legislation emerging from that conference passes into law, and that the military veterans of our country receive an added forum in which to make their opinions known.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Results of the 1988 Student Survey

In recent years, I have conducted an annual Student Survey among West Virginia high school students, to learn which issues and concerns are uppermost on the minds of our young people.

The results of the 1988 survey are in and tabulated, with interesting responses.

In answer to my inquiry concerning the "most important issue facing Congress this year," 20 percent of the respondents pinpointed the federal deficit.

Improving America's educational system was the second most frequently mentioned concern with 19 percent.

The third-place concern was providing for America's homeless (16 percent), while limiting the buildup of nuclear weapons came in fourth place with 14 percent.

In fifth place came maintaining a strong national defense (12 percent); followed by combatting illegal drug use (10 percent); improving the balance of trade with foreign countries, in seventh position (5 percent); and stepping up the war on crime, in eighth place (3 percent).

On each of these issues, Congress is currently working or is involved in looking for solutions. I commend the student respondents on their grasp

of these questions.

Another question included in the survey asked the students to rank in priority the targets toward which limited federal dollars should be aimed.

To this question, the students ranked education first (40 percent), health research second (19 percent), followed by national defense (17 percent), public works projects (10 percent), fighting drug abuse (6 percent), and job training (5 percent). Energy research (2 percent) and transportation (1 percent) came in seventh and eighth.

The students demonstrated their West Virginia pride and awareness by listing our state's beauty as the primary asset of living in West Virginia (67 percent). Other assets of living in West Virginia were its wildlife (28 percent), low crime rate (17 percent), and friendly people (12 percent). Among a variety of added items in this category were small town life (10 percent), family in the state (6 percent), and low cost of living/low population (4 percent).

This year's surveyed students gave the perceptive, thoughtful replies that I have come to expect from West Virginia students, and I thank all of those who participated in the 1988 Student Survey for sharing their ideas and opinions with me.

July 27, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Drought Relief for West Virginia Farmers

With record temperatures and disastrous shortfalls of rain across the country, the United States has been hit this summer with the worst drought in 50 years.

While for most people these conditions have meant discomfort, for many farmers this drought threatens bankruptcy and a loss of livelihood.

Against that background, the United States Senate recently passed S. 2631, a bill to give federal assistance to the agriculture sector as a result of the current drought.

Although rains have come to some parts of parched regions in recent weeks, the damage to crops and livestock for large numbers of farmers and growers is already so great as to spell massive financial losses.

In West Virginia, for example, many farmers have sustained, to date, crop losses up to 40 percent, and some report losses as high as 80 percent.

This legislation will benefit West Virginia farms in several ways. The disaster payment program will provide payments to farmers who have suffered more than a 35-percent loss in production due to the drought, not only for crops covered under current Federal support programs, but

for all "nonprogram" crops as well. These payments will be equal to 65 percent of the established crop price for the production deficiency in excess of 35 percent. This is particularly important to West Virginia farmers whose crops are not currently covered.

In addition, many West Virginia livestock producers have been unable to purchase the feed that they need at a reasonable cost. Under this bill, the livestock feed assistance provisions extend assistance not only to livestock producers who produce their own feed, but also to those who must purchase feed for their herds.

Moreover, West Virginia dairy farmers will benefit from a provision in the Senate-passed version of this bill that would rescind the 50-percent dairy price support cut that was scheduled to occur January 1, 1989. This provision would help dairy farmers who are facing increased feed costs due to the drought.

I hope that this legislation becomes law quickly, in order that West Virginia's farmers will receive the assistance that they need now, before they suffer irreversible damages.

August 3, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Softening the Blow of Plant Closings

One of the greatest blows that a working man or woman can suffer is the loss of a job because of layoffs or plant closings.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that, between January 1981 and 1986, 10.8 million American workers 20 years old or older suffered that blow.

Worse, the General Accounting Office of the U.S. Government notes that many of those millions of workers lost their jobs in mass layoffs or closings without warning, or with advance notice of two weeks or less.

Often, that has meant the sudden loss of health insurance, delay of unemployment benefits, no job search or counseling assistance, and no severance pay.

Indeed, in communities in which one plant dominates the economy, the ripple effect of a closing can devastate the lives of thousands whose livelihoods depend on their plant-employee neighbors' continued working.

Recognition of the rending effect that such closings and layoffs can have, led to a growing call nationally for required advance notice of closings

and mass layoffs. Study after study has revealed that advance notice lessens the trauma and dislocation suffered by workers and communities following closings and layoffs.

Studies also show that advance notice, by giving employees and communities time to adjust and make new plans, cuts the average period of unemployment and lessens the public costs of such unemployment.

As a result of these appeals and studies, Congress passed the Plant Closing Notification Bill. Under this legislation, plants employing 100 workers or more will be required to give their workers sixty days of advance notice before closing their doors. In specific instances, layoffs would also require a sixty-day advance notice.

This is long overdue legislation. Moreover, the President has announced that he will allow this bill to become law.

This is a good bill -- good for business and good for the American family. This fair-minded and decent law will go far toward easing the anguish and dislocation so often caused by plant closures and layoffs.

August 10, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Putting America Back into the World Trade Race

Last January, I promised that Congress would pass a trade bill.

Recently, Congress passed such a bill--legislation that will help America get its economic house in order, that will make American industry competitive once more, and that will return America's economic future to the hands of her own people.

This trade bill is a forward-looking, comprehensive piece of legislation. It reflects a strong, bipartisan consensus that America must put an end to policies of foreign borrowing and debt, and get back on the plus side of our trading accounts.

The product of three years' work, the trade bill is aimed at opening world markets more fairly to American goods, hitting foreign trade abuses, and helping those American industries and workers most directly suffering from foreign imports and foreign trade practices.

Among other features, this legislation proposes ways to boost exports, helps business and industry to retool to meet

foreign competition more quickly, puts a premium on educating and training a new generation of workers, and gives our trade ambassadors new tools by which to negotiate with our trading partners.

This trade bill is timely--perhaps even urgent. America needs this legislation, not only to ensure our economic strength, but to undergird our national security, as well. No nation can long maintain a great-power status without vibrant, strong domestic industries and a healthy trade balance.

In addition, we are announcing to the world that America is on the way back as an international exporting power. Largely through the trade deficit, in the past five years, the United States has gone from being the world's No. 1 creditor nation to becoming the No. 1 debtor nation. The trade bill is a first step in reversing that ignominy.

Once this bill becomes law, "Made in America" can hope to again become a formidable label of national pride and a guarantee of excellent quality.

August 17, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Labor Day 1988

Labor Day--the first Monday in September--is a holiday that Americans enjoy, but that many take for granted.

In truth, however, Labor Day is one of our oldest official national observances, and can have an important meaning for us in this new era of international trade and competition.

The first major Labor Day celebration began in New York City in September 1882, with a parade sponsored by the old Knights of Labor organization.

Today, every state and U.S. territory, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, observe Labor Day.

Certainly, Labor Day is an important holiday in West Virginia.

From our state's inception, working men and women have played a major role in building and maintaining West Virginia's economy.

Against the background of world economic rivalry and trade competition, West Virginians might benefit by looking at our attitudes toward work and our jobs.

People have a right to be proud of their jobs. All

honest labor has dignity. Through our work, we achieve greater independence, fulfill our dreams and hopes, and gain a deeper sense of self-esteem.

Goods and services produced by people with pride in their work often show increased quality and are more attractive to customers and buyers.

On this Labor Day, I hope that the working men and women of our state will take a renewed sense of pride in the roles that they are playing in West Virginia, and a greater sense of satisfaction in the contributions that they are making to our state and nation.

In addition, I hope that young West Virginians--especially junior high, high school, and college students--will cultivate positive attitudes toward their future work and careers, and will prepare themselves to compete in the world workplace using the highest standards of excellence that they know.

On Labor Day 1988, I salute the working people of West Virginia, and I thank them for the quality of life that they are making possible for all of their neighbors and families.

August 24, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Toward a West Virginia Hardwood-Products Industry

Since pioneer days, West Virginia has been noted for its abundant forests.

In 1870, for example, forests covered 14 million West Virginia acres -- seven eighths of our state's surface.

Those forests included oaks and poplars; walnut, cherry, and sycamore; ash, chestnut, chestnut oaks, and locusts, as well as white pine, hemlock, and spruces of remarkable size and quality.

From the 1870's onward, West Virginia trees were felled and shipped out of state to be converted into fine furniture, houses, wagons, barrels, ship beams, and boundless other wood products.

Unfortunately, in all that time, a major wood-products industrial base -- furniture, homebuilding elements, and other finished wooden goods -- did not take shape within our state's borders.

After World War I, with West Virginia's primeval forests largely stripped away, the volume of lumber emerging from West Virginia saw mills was greatly reduced from previous years, and again was largely shipped outside the state.

But, through scientific reforestation, West Virginia's potential as a growth area for hardwoods is as great now as ever.

For that reason, I sponsored and won pas-

sage last year of legislation establishing the newly opened Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory at Princeton in Mercer County.

My sponsorship of the Advanced Hardwood Processing Center was a logical forward step toward developing West Virginia's hardwood-manufacturing potential. A primary purpose of this center is to help our state to capitalize on one of its most important natural resources, thereby turning West Virginia into a major wood-products manufacturer.

The Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center has been envisioned and launched as a joint government-industry effort, with one of its salient functions being to work with private industry to develop high-tech, state-of-the-art, computerized machinery geared to wood-products manufacturing.

The success of this center will largely depend on continuing cooperation between the government and private sectors. That cooperation will be well-rewarded, for the growth of a wood-products industrial base in our state can mean more jobs for West Virginia, and the creation of a broad new base to help rejuvenate our state's economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Some Sobering Thoughts at the Start of a New School Year

The National Geographic Society recently reported that Americans aged 18 to 24 ranked last in a nine-nation comparative study testing world geographic knowledge.

The survey further discovered that 75 percent of Americans questioned could not locate the Persian Gulf on a map.

Worse, one in seven of the Americans surveyed was unable to find the United States on a world map.

In another survey, the federal government found that American ninth graders ranked 15th out of 17 nations in science knowledge. The same survey indicated that American twelfth graders placed third from the bottom in chemistry and dead last in biology.

In the mid-1960's, 75 percent of the world's new technology was generated from the United States.

Today, only 50 percent of the world's new technology is U.S. generated.

As to the future prospect of overcoming some of the problems listed above, roughly 10 percent of the engineering and science faculty positions at American colleges and universities are currently vacant, while 40 percent of the doctorates awarded an-

nually by American universities are going to foreign students.

These statistics and facts speak alarmingly for themselves. Derek Bok, President of Harvard University, has said, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." Throughout most of this century, the United States has been a world power with far-flung responsibilities. For generations, this nation has been in the vanguard of science, technology, manufacturing, and research. Indeed, our national security and our standard of living rest largely on foundations requiring top-notch education and training, scientific pioneering, and a literate, knowledgeable electorate.

From my journeys across our state, I know that West Virginians are concerned about the quality of the education their children are receiving.

As our schools and colleges fill once again with returning pupils and students this autumn, I hope that more Americans will consider the meaning of the disturbing figures and conclusions that I have cited, and that they will lend greater support to our teachers and educators as they seek to fulfill roles and duties on which our country's very future depends.

September 7, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Software Valley Update

Recently, I hosted a meeting in behalf of West Virginia's Software Valley movement to celebrate a successful fund-raising effort that has netted Software Valley pledges of approximately \$1.5 million over the next three years.

Software Valley is a non-profit initiative that promotes research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia.

Since 1985, I have sponsored seven Software Valley conferences throughout West Virginia to explain to state leaders in business, government, industry, and education the potential economic opportunities posed for West Virginia by computer technology, and to enlist growing numbers of our state's citizens in developing those opportunities.

As a result of those efforts, eight Software Valley chapters have been organized across West Virginia, with members in 47 of our 55 counties.

Participants in the meeting were largely representatives of corporations -- headquartered both within and outside of West

Virginia -- that have pledged contributions to Software Valley in recognition of its importance to our state and national economic and industrial futures.

The funds pledged by those corporations will be used by the Software Valley Corporation to initiate business development, to further research and development resources for state companies, to promote high-tech manufacturing in our state, and to provide education and training in computer and software use.

I am deeply encouraged by the progress that Software Valley is making, as well as by the response that thousands of interested West Virginians have shown in this movement.

Through the Software Valley movement, I hope that we can help refocus West Virginia's economic vision on high technology, that industries can be created in our state based on the use of flexible computer integrated manufacturing, and that we can pioneer business and economic options of which we never before dreamed for West Virginia.

September 14, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Minimum Wage Needs a Boost

In January 1981, the minimum hourly wage was increased to \$3.35.

Even then, that represented less than half of the average hourly wage paid working Americans of \$7.25.

In January 1981, a full-time employee earning the minimum wage was paid an annual \$6,968.

1981's \$3.35 minimum wage is still in place, while the average American hourly wage has risen to \$9.43.

Worse, while the full-time employee making the minimum wage is still earning an annual \$6,968, the 1988 poverty line now stands at \$9,427 for a family of three.

Put simply, if an employee works full-time at a job at the minimum wage, he or she will still be poor and then some. That employee will make \$2,459 less than the current poverty level for a family of three.

Currently, Congress is considering a proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$4.55 in graduated steps by 1991. At present, 15 million Americans on an hourly wage earn less than that figure, three-quarters of them adults, many trying to support families as the sole wage earner.

The \$3.35 minimum

wage is working particular hardships in West Virginia.

Since 1981, the number of good-paying manufacturing jobs in our state has dropped from 111,000 to 85,000 in May of 1988. Coal-mining jobs have declined over that period from almost 60,000 to 28,700.

As a result of those declines, many West Virginians have had to take other jobs to earn a living, but are having to struggle to provide for their families. In the most recent figures available on new job openings filed with the State, of over 41,000 jobs, more than 26,000 of those jobs--63 percent--paid hourly wages of only \$3.35 to \$3.84.

The time has come to look again at the minimum wage. While some claim a rise in the minimum wage would mean recession, the historical record shows that this is not a valid claim.

All honest work possesses dignity, regardless of the wage.

But most Americans and West Virginians believe in fairness and a decent wage for a hard day's work.

An increase in the minimum hourly wage would be consistent with that philosophy.

September 21, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening West Virginia's Export Trade Potential

West Virginia is the third-ranking exporting state in the nation.

Over 13 percent of West Virginia workers in manufacturing enterprises are involved in export-related employment.

One of West Virginia's closest trading partners is Canada, America's northern neighbor, with whom we share the longest undefended border in the world.

In 1986, for example, West Virginia exported goods worth over \$256 million to Canada, while importing approximately \$174 million worth of goods from Canada -- a trade surplus of \$82 million.

Among the major components of West Virginia's trade exports to Canada are coal, chemicals, plastics and other chemical products, aluminum, and motor vehicle and aircraft parts.

Moreover, West Virginia's ties with Canada go well beyond trade. The Canadian investment of \$2.3 billion in our state has generated 15,000 jobs. And in 1986, 93,000 Canadian visitors to West Virginia poured over \$5 million into our state's economy.

With such vital ties between West Virginia and Canada, I took an active part in the recent Senate passage of legislation to

implement the historic U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that was signed earlier this year.

Before lending my support to the legislation, however, I ascertained that this agreement would not be detrimental to West Virginia industry or jobs. I was also encouraged in my support by endorsements of this legislation by major voices in the coal industry and other important West Virginia exporting industries.

Before the FTA goes into effect, the upper house of the Canadian Parliament must approve it.

I believe that this agreement will benefit the United States and West Virginia.

If finally approved, the FTA will, over a ten-year period, eliminate tariffs on merchandise trade, ease import and export restrictions, and establish new mechanisms to deal with trade questions between our two countries.

Above all, however, this new agreement -- especially coupled with the comprehensive trade bill that I helped to shepherd through the Senate earlier this year -- promises to provide opportunities for West Virginia industries to grow and export more West Virginia products, and to create more jobs for West Virginians.

September 28, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Appalachian Highway Corridors

Recently, I won final Congressional approval of \$16 million in federal funds to finance construction of another segment of Appalachian Highway Corridor H.

This segment--the Buckhannon Bypass--will be built in Upshur County, and will be part of a four-lane highway linking Interstate-79 in central West Virginia with Interstate-81 near Strasburg, Virginia. Already, 18.1 miles of Corridor H have been completed, and another 26 miles are moving toward construction.

Corridor H will cover approximately 135 miles in West Virginia, passing through Lewis, Upshur, Randolph, Pendleton, Grant, and Hardy counties on its way eastward.

The Appalachian Highway System is an important part of West Virginia's total highway system. Currently, approximately 266.1 miles of the originally planned Appalachian corridors have been completed or are under construction.

Among these completed or currently under-construction highways are: Corridor D--U.S. 50 from Parkersburg to Clarksburg; Corridor E--U.S. 48 from Morgantown east through Preston County to the Maryland line; Corridor G--U.S. 119 from Charleston to the Kentucky line; Corridor L--U.S. 19

from Braxton County to Beckley; and Corridor Q--U.S. 460 through Mercer County.

The expanding Appalachian Corridor highways are a result of legislation that Jennings Randolph and I and other Senators co-sponsored in Congress establishing the Appalachian Regional Commission, among whose primary purposes I intended the building of the corridor highways in West Virginia.

Authorization of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) expired in 1982, and since 1981, the Administration has sought to eliminate the ARC.

Knowing the vital importance of completing the Appalachian Corridor highways to West Virginia's future growth and economic prosperity, however, I have worked through the appropriations process to extend the life of the ARC, in order that the essential Appalachian Corridor highways might be completed in West Virginia.

The Appalachian Corridor highways are a keystone in our state's and our children's future. I shall continue working to ensure that the total mileage in the Appalachian Highway Corridor System in West Virginia is completed.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Support of the Death Penalty for Drug "Kinpins"

By an act of Congress, October 24-30, 1988, is officially "Drug Free America Week."

Though some cynics poke fun at such gestures, the designation of such a national week is a symbol of the determination of serious Americans and their elected representatives to come to grips with a rampant national scourge.

Currently, America is in the clutches of a drug crisis so severe that it threatens our national moral fiber, if not our national security itself.

Daily, countless thousands of men and women, and boys and girls, are being further enslaved by drug pushers to heroin, cocaine, and other dangerous and illegal drugs, mostly imported into our country from overseas.

Annually, in the major cities of our country, scores of people are killed in so-called "drug-turf" wars, in vengeance murders at the hands of drug dealers, or in the crossfires of such violence.

Right now, in the District of Columbia -- the seat of our nation's government -- one witnesses homicides running at a rate of approximately one per day, most of them related in some fashion to the drug problem.

Even in West Vir-

ginia -- the state with consistently the nation's lowest crime rate -- certain communities and areas that have little experience with crime are seeing an alarming upswing in illegal drug trafficking.

Without a strong deterrent, can the accompanying violence that marks drug trafficking in metropolitan areas be far behind, even in West Virginia? In order to send potential drug-trading killers an unmistakable warning, at my urging the recent Senate drug abuse bill included a provision mandating the death penalty for murders committed or ordered by drug lords or "kingpins," and for the drug-related murders of law enforcement officers.

By its very nature, drug trafficking is corroding the foundations of our country and must be stopped.

But violent killings related to the illegal drug trade have reached epidemic proportions.

America is locked in a battle for its life and moral well-being against the drug scourge.

The death penalty for murderous drug lords sends them a message: if you take a life in your nefarious profession, you risk your own life.

October 12, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An American's Most Precious Right and Duty

From May 25th to September 17th, 1787, some of the most brilliant men in the United States met in closed session in Philadelphia to create a constitution for our country.

An apocryphal story has it that, as Benjamin Franklin emerged from that meeting, a woman was said to ask him what kind of government they had given the country.

Franklin is reported to have answered, "A republic, madam, if you can keep it!"

That is still the keystone on which our country stands or falls: whether we the people choose to keep this a republic or not.

Unfortunately, we are today facing a crisis in our country on that count.

In 1960, for example, voter turnout in the Presidential election was approximately 63.1 percent of eligible voters.

By 1984, after continuing election-by-election declines, that percentage was down to 53.3 percent.

Currently, America has one of lowest voting rates of any industrial nation in the world.

Apparently, a growing

number of Americans are not taking their duties as citizens seriously.

If that trend continues, the time may come when less than half of our eligible voters will choose the man or woman who will occupy the most important and powerful office in the world.

The crown jewel of our Constitution and our way of life is our right to vote. It is not just a right; it is also a duty. Our vote is the primary means by which we make known our views on important issues, and whom we want to lead us.

The deadline for registering to vote in the upcoming election in West Virginia has passed.

I hope that all registered West Virginian voters will plan now to go to the polls on November 8 to cast their ballots.

Our right to vote was bought with the blood of thousands who gave their lives that we might enjoy and use that right.

November 8 is an important day on our national, state, and local calendars.

May we see a good turnout in West Virginia on that date.

October 19, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tracking Down a Silent Killer in Our Homes

In the early 1980's, a health hazard long active in homes and other buildings came to light.

Scientists reported discovering a gas--radon--that results from the natural deterioration of soil and rocks containing granite, shale, uranium, and phosphate.

Odorless and colorless, radon seeps out of soil and into the air, allowing it entrance into structures through basements or through cracks in foundations.

In 1986, Congress passed legislation directing that the danger of radon to human health be researched, and that a report be forthcoming from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As a result of its studies, EPA reported last year that as many as 20,000 lung cancer deaths a year can be attributed to radon, making it second only to smoking as a major cause of that disease.

EPA also said that one out of every five homes tested in a ten-state survey suffered health-threatening radon levels.

Responding to the EPA findings, the 100th Congress passed the State Radon Program Development Act of 1988.

This legislation directs EPA to provide technical assistance to the states to develop programs to

eliminate or reduce radon hazards in homes and other buildings.

The bill further directs EPA to conduct a study of the extent of the radon hazard in the Nation's schools.

Initially, most of West Virginia was thought to be relatively radon safe.

Subsequent research, however, indicates that as many as 60 percent of the homes in certain areas of the state may have unacceptable levels of radon gas.

Dr. Bob Anderson, a professor of environmental studies at West Virginia University, cautions that homeowners and other concerned people should not panic over the radon threat. The problem, where it exists, is relatively easy to correct, and needs to be treated on a case-by-case basis.

The West Virginia University Extension Service is pursuing a program of holding seminars on the radon problem in various locations in the state.

Anyone wishing more information on the radon problem in our state, or seeking specific information on the seminars, can write directly to: Dr. Bob Anderson; 508 Brooks Hall; West Virginia University; Morgantown, West Virginia 26506; or call (304) 293-3912.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Benefits From the Work of the 100th Congress

After a lengthy and extremely productive tenure, the 100th Congress adjourned and passed into history.

Numerous pieces of legislation enacted by the 100th Congress will have a significant impact on West Virginia.

Among its actions, the 100th Congress passed, and overrode the President's veto of, the Clean Water Act, which contains \$151 million in wastewater treatment plant construction grants for West Virginia communities over a four-year period.

Again, the 100th Congress passed over the President's veto a highway bill that includes cumulatively more than a half-billion dollars in federal highway funds for West Virginia over a four-year period.

Congress also passed all 13 appropriations bills prior to the new fiscal year deadline for the first time in twelve years.

Those appropriations bills include funding that I obtained for a number of West Virginia projects, such as \$23 million for military construction in the state, \$18 million for design work and construction of another segment of Appalachian Corridor H, and approximately \$17 million to acquire land and develop tourist facilities for the New River Gorge National River.

In action important to the future of the coal in-

dustry in West Virginia, my Clean Coal Technology Program was funded through the appropriations process in the amount of \$575 million for 1990, which brings the funding that I have obtained for this program to more than \$1.5 billion.

Moreover, the 100th Congress enacted a number of landmark pieces of legislation of historic dimensions. Such major legislation includes comprehensive trade policy, catastrophic health insurance for the elderly, the first housing bill in almost a decade, and important anti-drug legislation.

Congress also passed the Tax Technical Corrections Bill, which maintains tax-exempt status for small police and firefighters' pension plans, as well as establishing a taxpayers' bill of rights, and retaining a fuels tax credit for the oil and gas industry, and exemption from federal diesel excise taxes for farmers, the mining and construction industries, and other off-road users.

The Senate also approved the Intermediate Nuclear Forces arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Certainly, the 100th Congress made decisions that will positively affect West Virginia and America long into the future.

November 2, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

TRI-Ada Conference '88 Held in Charleston

In order to promote new business and industrial opportunities in West Virginia, over three years ago I helped launch and began sponsoring the Software Valley Initiative in our state.

Software Valley is a non-profit movement to promote research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia.

Since 1985, I have sponsored seven Software Valley conferences throughout West Virginia to explain to state leaders in business, government, industry, and education the potential economic opportunities posed for West Virginia by computer technology, and to enlist growing numbers of our state's citizens in developing those opportunities.

As a result of those efforts, I have been able to gain a groundlevel position for West Virginia in the "Ada" computer language network that is emerging nationally and internationally.

"Ada" is the computer language mandated for use in weapons systems by the U.S. Defense Department, which considers the development of the Ada language vital to our national defense and security. Ada is also becoming the primary computer language used by the Pentagon.

Because of West Vir-

ginia's growing significance as a software center, I was able to bring the week-long international TRI-Ada Conference '88 to Charleston last month.

Estimated to be among the largest conventions in Charleston's history, this seminar and technology exhibition brought together some of America's major computer software manufacturers with leading defense agencies and businesses using the Ada program.

More than 2000 computer professionals and experts from across the country attended the convention, with more than 120 companies from the aerospace, defense, and computer industries displaying their technology and wares.

Speakers at this Ada convention included representatives from the National Air and Space Administration (NASA), major universities, the Department of Defense, and such major defense-related corporations as Grumman, Rockwell, Honeywell, Unisys, Martin Marietta, and Westinghouse.

This was the second time that I have enlisted an Ada convention in meeting in West Virginia, the first occasion being in 1986.

TRI-Ada '88, like its predecessor, was a solid success, and should move West Virginia another step forward toward a more prosperous high-technology future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thanksgiving 1988

Popular legend places America's first Thanksgiving celebration in the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1621. That Thanksgiving was called by Governor William Bradford to give thanks to God for the colony's survival of its first bitter year in New England, and for the gathering in of a great harvest.

Certainly, some of the imagery attached even to our modern Thanksgiving celebrations -- turkeys, Pilgrim costumes, blunderbuss rifles, pumpkin pies, and the harvest theme -- is drawn from that precedent-setting early New England celebration.

But the Plymouth precedent aside, the people of the United States would have, in all likelihood, developed a national Thanksgiving celebration, with or without the Pilgrims.

Central to America's growth and settlement has been a deep faith in God possessed by countless

numbers of men and women who established their roots in this country.

Of Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, or other religious faiths, our forefathers understood themselves in relation to a merciful and loving God, and ordered their lives accordingly.

Willingly then, they bowed their heads, bent their knees, or lifted their voices in praise and gratitude to the Providence that brought them to such a free and abundant land.

Thanksgiving 1988 affords us a like occasion to follow that example.

In a world still torn by sectarian and international conflicts, a world in which millions still enjoy little freedom to follow their own consciences without penalty, and a world in which so many still yearn for blessings great and small that most Americans take for granted, we have reason without limit to be thankful.

November 16, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Increased Services For West Virginia Military Veterans

Throughout my career in Congress, I have been committed to increasing the services available to the thousands of military veterans in West Virginia.

In fulfillment of that continuing commitment, and as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have acted to provide better and increased benefits to West Virginia's veterans.

In October, for example, I joined in breaking ground for the seven-story clinical addition to the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center in Huntington, a project for which I helped secure \$50.8 million in federal funds.

Likewise, I helped to obtain \$25.9 million in federal funds to construct a clinical addition and undertake major improvements at the Clarksburg VA Medical Center. I also helped to secure \$15.7 million for a clinical addition to the VA Hospital in Beckley.

These expansions and improvements are in addition to the nearly \$75 million that I obtained in the late 1970's to construct the Martinsburg VA Medical Center, and will enable the VA medical centers in our state better to meet the health needs of West Virginia veterans.

I also obtained federal

funds to establish special counseling centers in Charleston, Morgantown, and Martinsburg, with a satellite center in Huntington. These centers offer vocational and personal counseling, as well as referral services where needed, for Vietnam-era and other veterans.

This past year, in order to ease the burden on the Charleston center, I won approval of new Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Counseling Centers in Beckley and Princeton, with an outreach center in Logan.

West Virginia Vietnam-era veterans wishing to contact these centers, or seeking to obtain information from them on the services that they provide, can use the following telephone numbers:

Charleston: 343-3825

Martinsburg: 263-6776

Morgantown: 291-4001

or 4002

Huntington: 523-8387

Beckley: 252-8220

Princeton: 425-5653

Logan: 752-6868

Our country is indebted to the men and women who have enlisted in America's armed forces. I shall continue working to see that America keeps faith with West Virginia's veterans for the sacrifices that they have made for all of us.

November 23, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Helping Older West Virginians Live More Securely

According to the Census Bureau, the older population -- persons 65 years or older -- currently comprises about 12.1 percent of the U.S. population, or more than 30 million Americans.

By contrast, in 1900 that segment of our population represented only 4.1 percent, or 3.1 million people.

Older West Virginians currently make up approximately 13.6 percent of our state's population -- one of the highest percentages in the nation.

With the growth of the older segment of our population in mind, throughout my career in Congress I have made improving the lives of West Virginia's older citizens one of my foremost priorities.

I believe that West Virginians who have worked and been productive all their lives should be able to count on government policies that promote their dignity, security, and well-being in their later years.

For example, since entering Congress, I have sponsored or cosponsored more than 50 bills or amendments to improve or strengthen the social security system.

In the 100th Congress, as Majority Leader, I joined in helping pass catastrophic health care legisla-

tion. With soaring medical care costs, more and more retired people have come to live in fear of a catastrophic illness that might leave them destitute. This legislation is a step in the right direction in providing comprehensive, affordable health insurance to thousands of older West Virginians.

Medicare is another program that I supported from its beginning, and which I have continued to support in the face of efforts to weaken it.

In the area of housing for older people, I have helped communities throughout West Virginia to secure federal funding to build elderly housing units. Among these efforts have been West Arbors in Weston; the Charles Town Towers; the Elk Horn project in Welch; Heritage House in Clarksburg; the E.A. Hawse Village in Hardy County; the Kings Daughters' conversion and Martinsburg Senior Towers in Berkeley County; the Parkersburg High Rise and the Sears Roebuck building conversion in Wood County; and Rivermont Presbyterian in Montgomery.

In the future, I shall continue working to ensure that older West Virginians have available to them resources and opportunities that can make their lives fuller and more secure.

November 30, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Reasons for West Virginia Pride

This year, West Virginia University's football team has chalked up an 11-0 winning record in regular season play -- the most successful in the school's history.

As a result, the West Virginia University Mountaineers will face the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl football game in Tempe, Arizona, on January 2 -- a game that may decide this year's national college football championship.

Regardless of the outcome of the Fiesta Bowl, this year's WVU football team has bolstered the spirits of West Virginians in every corner of our state, as well as the spirits of West Virginians living throughout our country and abroad.

I join all West Virginians and Mountaineer football fans everywhere in congratulating Coach Don Nehlen, his staff, and the members of the Mountaineer football team for the outstanding season just past, and in wishing them every success in the upcoming Fiesta Bowl clash with Notre Dame.

But, at the end of 1988, the success of WVU's football team is

but one reason for West Virginians to take renewed pride in our state.

In addition to WVU's football successes, Marshall University has also enjoyed an outstanding winning football season, as well.

Another reason for genuine pride is that, as in so many past years, last year West Virginia could again boast the lowest crime rate in our nation -- a tribute to the character and moral strength of the people of our state.

Again, the ongoing popularity of country and western music has brought an increased interest in West Virginia's rich cultural heritage -- a heritage that was and is a well-spring of the country music genre.

Likewise, more and more Americans are looking to West Virginia, with its growing network of state park facilities, natural beauty, vast forests and abundant wildlife, fresh-water lakes, white-water rafting opportunities, camping and hunting options, and winter-sport sites, as a choice tourist possibility.

West Virginians have many excellent reasons to be proud of our state!

December 7, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Senate Appropriations Committee

In the upcoming 101st Congress, I shall be the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Constitution, in Article 1, Section 9, sets forth that, "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law." The experience of the Founding Fathers was such that they believed it imperative to place the ultimate control over government funds in the hands of the elected representatives of the people, as a further check on the possible excesses of the executive branch of government.

Annually, for example, the President submits a budget to Congress, including recommended funding levels to carry out programs established by law. The President's budget also reflects the priorities of the administration.

Once received, the President's budget is subjected to extensive hearings by committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Testimony is heard in these hearings from interested persons representing the administration, the private sector, and administrators of the programs concerned, fed-

eral and local.

Within budget limits set by Congress, the Appropriations Committee is responsible for setting funding levels for federal programs and services.

As Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I will have a voice in helping to determine how federal dollars are being spent within the overall budget proposed by the President and Congress.

However, faced with towering federal deficits, the need to reduce the national debt, and the constraints of the Gramm-Rudman budget limitation law, pressures to cut federal spending will be enormous, and demands on the limited available federal dollars will be tremendous.

In my Senate duties, I have always sought to bring a West Virginia perspective to my work, and I shall continue that policy as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Above all, I hope to help set priorities that will benefit West Virginia -- education, health services, scientific research, a strong national defense, and infrastructure programs, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, and water and sewer projects.

December 14, 1988



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Space-Age Software Valley Symposium

In 1985, I launched the Software Valley movement, a non-profit effort that has enlisted business people, educators, and public officials in every section of our state in the promotion of high-technology business and industry possibilities for West Virginia.

On January 12, a Software Valley symposium will be held at Shepherd College as part of a promising new endeavor that could help West Virginia companies become integral players in the developing commercial space industry.

I shall be sponsoring this symposium, assisted by Space Services, Incorporated, of America, a Houston-based launch services company headed by former astronaut Donald K. "Deke" Slayton.

One of the purposes of this symposium will be to explore the possibilities and resources available for launching a high-technology space research park in Jefferson County, similar in concept to an industrial park.

With the growing sophistication of space exploration, the opportunities for an emerging commercial space industry are expanding nationwide, and I would like to see West Virginia take its place on the ground level of such an industry.

Among participants in the Shepherd College symposium will be represen-

tatives of the aerospace industry, Department of Defense officials, college and university faculty involved in space/computer systems with commercial and government applications, defense industry representatives, interested business people, officials of NASA and other government agencies involved in space efforts, and local private developers and government officials.

Certainly, located so near to our nation's Capital and the headquarters of numerous defense/space agencies, Jefferson County and other Eastern Panhandle counties offer attractive elements needed by an emerging space-oriented industry.

I am pleased to join with forward-looking planners in the Jefferson County area in examining potential space-industry opportunities for West Virginia.

Likewise, I hope that the Software Valley symposium at Shepherd College will inspire creative minds in other sections of West Virginia to examine their communities as candidates for new high-technology enterprises.

Anyone wishing further information on this Software Valley symposium may obtain it by contacting my office in Washington, at (202) 224-3954.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Coal's Future

Recently, I was named "Coal Man of the Year" by *Coal* magazine, and honored for my contributions to the coal industry by the National Coal Association at a dinner in Washington.

Being singled out for these honors caused me to reflect on the continuing importance of coal and on the future directions that I believe coal needs to take.

Today, more than 50 percent of America's electric energy is generated from coal, and coal is now supplying nearly one-quarter of all of our country's energy needs.

Indeed, experts predict that the demand for coal as an energy source will continue to increase through the end of this century.

However, we can no longer take coal's future for granted.

Two factors, primarily, will decide coal's future. One is the growing worldwide concern for the environment. The other factor helping to shape coal's destiny is economics.

Environmentally, I believe that we are on the right track. In 1984, I established the Clean Coal Technology program to promote the use of coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

As a result of my legislation and my efforts in

the Senate Appropriations Committee, Congress has already budgeted more than \$1.5 billion in the demonstration of clean coal technologies.

These clean coal technologies have proved capable of reducing sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 95 to 99 percent, at significantly lower costs, and with significantly greater success than conventional anti-pollution technologies such as scrubbers.

In addition to the further development of clean coal technologies, I also believe that continued coal research is the answer to the other factor that will help decide coal's future -- the economic factor.

Currently, coal is price-competitive with other energy sources. But coal's future attraction may be based on its cost-effective conversion into other forms for use in transportation and industry.

Coal is versatile. Through continued research, coal may become a cost-attractive key to multiple products of which some scientists only dream today.

For coal's future -- and above all, for West Virginia's future -- I shall continue working for improved coal technologies and more coal research.





Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate

On January 3rd, after serving twelve years as both Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, I was elected President pro tempore of the Senate.

In assuming that title, I shall be the 86th Senator since 1789 to occupy that office, and the first West Virginian so selected.

The President pro tempore is the only Senate officer specified in the Constitution.

The term "pro tempore" comes from the Latin, and means "for the time being; temporarily."

According to the Constitution, the Vice President is the designated presiding officer of the Senate. In his absence, however, the Senate is directed to choose from among its members a substitute presiding officer--the President pro tempore.

In theory, any Senator might be chosen as President pro tempore. In recent decades, however, the selection normally has fallen upon the Senator of the majority party in the Senate who has the most seniority in years of Senate service.

In addition to presiding over the Senate or designating another Senator to preside, the

President pro tempore or the Vice President (or another Senator acting as President pro tempore) must sign all legislation passed by the Senate before it can become law.

Another feature of this position is that the President pro tempore is third in line of Presidential succession, behind only the Vice President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

With this election, I will have held all of the Senate leadership positions available, including Secretary of the Democratic Conference; Democratic Whip; Majority Leader; Minority Leader; Chairman of the Democratic Steering Committee; Chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee; and, finally, President pro tempore. This is more Senate leadership positions than have been held by any Senator of any party from any other state since the First Congress convened in 1789.

My colleagues having elected me President pro tempore, I shall continue to serve in the Senate leadership, and I will continue to try to bring West Virginia values--hard work, patriotism, and dedication to duty--to the leadership.

January 4, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Should the Electoral College Be Abolished?

On January 4, Vice President Bush was formally declared the winner of last year's Presidential election.

President-elect Bush's victory was not directly, however, the millions of votes that he won in November's popular vote.

Instead, the deciding election was the electoral college vote officially tallied in December.

According to the electoral college vote, Vice President Bush received 426 votes, Governor Dukakis received 111 votes, and Senator Lloyd Bentsen received one vote.

Interestingly, that one vote for Bentsen was cast by a West Virginia elector, who voted as she did, reportedly, as a protest against the electoral college system, under which, technically, voters choose state electors who, in turn, elect the President.

This West Virginia elector makes an interesting point.

Though electoral college candidates normally pledge themselves to vote for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates offered by their respective parties, they are not constitutionally or legally required to do so.

In fact, nowhere in the

U.S. Constitution is provision made for the direct, popular election of the President or Vice President.

Moreover, in the Presidential election of 1876, Samuel Tilden won the popular vote, but Rutherford B. Hayes was chosen President by the electoral college.

Again, in 1888, Grover Cleveland was re-elected by popular vote, but lost the Presidency to Benjamin Harrison on the electoral vote.

Those most opposed to the electoral college system point out that this arrangement was put in place because some of the framers of the Constitution distrusted their fellow citizens to choose the Chief Executive wisely.

Indeed, until the 17th Amendment was ratified in 1913, the Constitution made no provision for the direct election of U.S. Senators.

Perhaps the lone West Virginia elector who voiced her opinion on the electoral college with her vote for Lloyd Bentsen has a point. Perhaps the time has come to rethink the practice of allowing the electoral college to decide the final outcome of Presidential elections.

January 11, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Essential Air Service Program Is Vital to West Virginia

A keystone important to building a more prosperous future for West Virginia is good transportation.

One element in ensuring good, modern transportation is access to safe, reliable, and reasonable air transportation.

For that reason, over a decade ago, I joined in winning passage of the nation's Essential Air Service (EAS) program, at a time when airline deregulation ended air service to many small and moderate-sized communities.

Under the EAS program, the federal Department of Transportation (DOT) subsidizes basic air service to airports that cannot guarantee ridership adequate to attract air carriers without such subsidies, and that are more than an hour's drive from a major "hub" airport, such as those at Washington, Pittsburgh, or Charlotte, North Carolina.

In 1987, Senator Rockefeller and I co-sponsored legislation to extend the EAS program for another ten years.

Currently, five West Virginia air centers--Morgantown, Clarksburg/Fairmont, Elkins, Beckley, and Bluefield/Princeton--receive airline service subsidized under the Essential Air Service program.

Recently, however, the DOT proposed eliminating essential air service

to a number of communities nationwide--including most of those in West Virginia--beginning March 1, in an effort to compensate for a \$6.6 million shortfall for the EAS program.

Because of the importance of the EAS program to West Virginia's economic development, I urged the DOT to delay action on its proposal until Congress could address this issue. I am pleased that the DOT has agreed to my request to delay any action that would curtail essential airline service.

Subsequently, I have met with President-elect Bush's Secretary of Transportation-designee, Samuel Skinner, to urge him to delay any action that would terminate this service.

I am encouraged that Mr. Skinner has assured me that, if he is confirmed in his nomination, he will work with Congress on this matter, and will place the dilemma confronting EAS at the top of his agenda.

These developments are good news for our state.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I intend to work to consider every available opportunity, including additional appropriations, to ensure that essential air service continues to be provided to West Virginia communities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Key Educational Steps for Our Future

According to many historians, the end of World War II marked the zenith of American power in this century.

In the following decades, with superior industrial might and scientific resources, the United States was the world's undisputed economic power. Some writers proudly labeled this century "the American Century."

But compare our situation now with our situation only a few years ago.

Today, the United States is the world's greatest debtor nation.

Today, we import more than we export.

Today, some of America's most prestigious companies are foreign owned.

In the last fifteen years, the total annual share of U.S. patents held by Americans has slid from 73 percent to 54 percent, while Japan's annual share of U.S. patents has risen from 4 percent to 19 percent.

We seem to be losing that inherent American genius and talent for inventiveness and scientific pioneering that so often gave our goods and products an edge over their competition.

We need to take certain far-reaching steps to avoid being reduced to a second-rate economic power.

One such step would be to strengthen our national educational system.

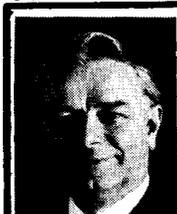
For example, most Japanese youngsters, often with fewer actual years in class, have up to four more years of exposure to math and science when they graduate from secondary school, than do their American counterparts.

Again, students in China, the Soviet Union, West Germany, and East Germany, spend up to one-half to two-thirds more time learning science in their classrooms than do their American peers.

And, while Japanese students are in school 240 days a year, American students are required to attend on an average only about 180 days, and overall absenteeism cuts that average to about 160 days.

Adding urgency to the need to examine and improve our educational system is the prediction that more than half of the new jobs created between now and the year 2000 will require some education beyond high school, and almost one-third of those new jobs will be filled by college graduates.

Our schools are the cutting-edge of our future. The key to regaining some of our lost economic momentum in West Virginia and America will be to enhance the pursuit of excellence in our schools now.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Saving the Appalachian Regional Commission

Since 1965, the federally funded Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has helped to build modern highways in West Virginia, fund scores of community development projects in our state, and improve basic services.

Again and again in the past eight years, the past Administration sought, fortunately without success, to eliminate the ARC.

Concerned at the outset of a new Administration to extend the life of a program so beneficial to West Virginia, Senator Rockefeller and I met recently with President Bush at the White House to ask his support for reauthorizing ARC and increasing its funding, especially funds for the ARC corridor highway construction.

Senator Rockefeller and I explained to the President the importance of the ARC corridors to West Virginia and the other Appalachian states, adding that, at current levels of funding, the remaining 948 miles of projected ARC highways in the 13-state region still awaiting construction--including 145 miles in West Virginia--would not be completed until the year 2065!

We thus proposed to the President a speedup of construction on the remaining ARC corridor

highways, pointing out how important these highways are to West Virginia's future growth and prosperity.

Although President Bush was not in a position to make an immediate commitment on ARC reauthorization and funding, he showed great interest in the ARC program and the corridor highways, and indicated that he would seriously consider our ARC appeal.

That is good news for West Virginia.

Reauthorization of ARC and completion of the ARC corridor highways are at the top of my priority list.

In the past, in addition to improving life for thousands of West Virginians, ARC programs have generated hundreds of jobs in our state. Completion of the corridor highways would open up East Coast markets and ports to more West Virginia products, help diversify our economy, enhance tourism, help our state's wood products industry, create more job opportunities for West Virginians, and bolster national security.

The Appalachian Regional Commission has unfinished business in West Virginia, as well as a vital role to play in building West Virginia's future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Campaign Financing Reform: Renewing the Struggle

Our democratic system of government is based on public trust.

Nothing alienates that trust faster and more completely than the taint -- or the suggestion of taint -- connected with big money.

Unfortunately, the spiraling costs of Congressional campaigns, and the influx of money into the political process to pay for those campaigns, are creating among millions of Americans the impression of such tainting.

Where once individual election campaigns for the Senate cost hundreds or a few thousands of dollars, such campaigns currently cost millions.

As a result, candidates must spend inordinate time soliciting campaign contributions from wealthy individuals all over the country and, more particularly, from the myriad political action committees (PAC's) that have sprung up to funnel money into campaigns.

Paradoxically, even candidates who deplore current campaign financing tactics must participate in the money scramble, or face insufficient funds to mount the costly media campaigns demanded by today's political situations.

The result of this money chase has been to create a growing cynicism among voters -- the perception that money buys influence, privilege, and power -- as well as a sense of disillusionment that

where once achievement, integrity, and hard work were the prime prerequisites for winning a seat in Congress, now the size of one's bank account and campaign war chests is too often the deciding factor in becoming a U.S. Senator or Congressman.

In the last Congress, I attempted eight times to end debate and get the Senate to vote up or down on a bill that I had cosponsored to bring about campaign finance reform for Senate elections.

And eight times the Senate failed to act on the issue of Senate campaign finance reform.

Again, at the beginning of the 101st Congress, I have joined two other Senate colleagues in cosponsoring a bill to place a cap on contributions from PAC's to all Senate candidates and a limitation on campaign expenditures, and to provide for other Senate campaign spending reforms.

The ultimate result of the unchecked current system of Congressional campaign financing will be to erode America's and West Virginia's democratic traditions.

As one who cherishes our system of representative democracy, I shall again work in this Congress to win passage of legislation to halt the threat of the political corruption inherent in today's runaway campaign finance system.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Federal Death Penalty Act of 1989

Many years ago, I witnessed an execution--an event so grim as to leave an indelible impression upon my memory.

Immediately following that experience, I would have voted against capital punishment, given the opportunity.

However, over the years, in the light of headlines and accounts of spiraling crime and nationally traumatic incidents and the horrendous atrocities of which some people are capable, I changed my mind on the death penalty. I have long supported it.

In 1972, the Supreme Court ruled Federal death penalty procedures unconstitutional in the case of Furman vs. Georgia.

But in 1976, the Supreme Court refined its earlier ruling, stating in a series of decisions that the death penalty was constitutional under certain conditions.

Complying with those strictures, the 100th Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, for which I voted, providing constitutional procedures for implementing the death penalty in cases involving certain drug-related murders and the killing of law enforcement officers.

In addition, most states, following Supreme Court guidelines, have restored the death penalty for specific categories of

crime.

Recently, I joined several Senate colleagues in cosponsoring the Federal Death Penalty Act of 1989.

Also following Supreme Court guidelines, this bill mandates a two-step court process and multiple safeguards that must be fulfilled in Federal cases before the death penalty could be pronounced.

Equally important, this bill distinctly outlines those crimes for which the death penalty would be authorized. In addition to those previously mentioned, other crimes include: certain acts of murder; assassination of, and certain attempts to assassinate, the President and other high officials; hostage-taking situations resulting in hostage death; certain acts of treason and espionage; and the crime of genocide.

Our judicial system strives to ensure that justice, reason, mercy, and compassion are available to those convicted of criminal acts.

The Federal Death Penalty Act of 1989, however, would ensure that individuals who contemplate committing certain heinous crimes coldly, deliberately, and calculatedly, may have second thoughts if their own executions might be the outcome of their actions.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Reaching a Difficult Decision

In our system of checks and balances, Section 2, Clause 2 of Article II of the U.S. Constitution delegates to the President the power of appointing his "public Ministers...and all other officers of the United States..." with the "Advice and Consent of the Senate."

All Cabinet nominees are subject to confirmation by the Senate, and must undergo hearings before an appropriate Senate committee, and if reported by the committee, be forwarded to the full Senate for a vote.

Generally, this process is not arduous, and many believe that, even where questions about a particular nominee exist, doubts about nominees to the Cabinet or Supreme Court should be resolved in favor of the President's preferred choice. But I believe the Senate's primary responsibility must be to resolve any doubts in favor of the American people and their interests.

On January 20, the President submitted nominations for his Cabinet positions, including that of former Senator John Tower to be Secretary of Defense.

The position of Secretary of Defense is particularly unique, sensitive, and important. The Secretary is in the military chain of command, and his decisions--made often on the basis of unforeseen de-

velopments, partial information, and excruciating time pressures in the middle of the night or at any hour of the day--affect the lives of our fighting men and women and the credibility of this country, and could affect the fate of this nation and others.

Consequently, the Secretary of Defense must be a person of unfailingly sound judgment, and precise, careful, unimpaired, cogent reasoning powers at all times.

For these reasons, and because of his recent close associations with defense contractors, after a careful examination of FBI reports on his fitness, I concluded that Senator Tower falls short of those important benchmarks of fitness for the office of Secretary of Defense, and I have opposed his confirmation.

This has not been an easy decision for me to make. Senator Tower is capable and knowledgeable in a number of areas, and has an extensive background in defense matters.

However, I cannot support a nomination that sends a message to the American people and to our friends and allies that repeated serious errors in judgment, lapses of self-discipline and propriety, and appearances of lucrative intimacy with defense contractors, can be overlooked, in the hope that such failings will not be repeated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Celebration of the U.S. Senate's 200th Anniversary

March 4, 1989, marked the 200th anniversary of the Senate of the United States of America.

In timely commemoration of that event, the first volume of an effort on which I have worked since 1980--a book entitled *The Senate: 1789-1989*--was unveiled recently at a reception marking its publication.

This seven-pound, 800-page chronological history of the U.S. Senate is a compilation and editing of a series of speeches that I delivered in the Senate over the past eight years.

The purpose of my Senate history is to provide a better knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Senate, its uniqueness, its role under the Constitution, and the degree to which it has fulfilled that role.

Professor William E. Leuchtenburg, University of North Carolina, a nationally recognized historian, has described this work as a "magisterial enterprise--the most ambitious study of the United States Senate in all our history."

Certainly, this book's origins were less grandly intended.

In 1980, when my younger granddaughter's elementary school class was seated in the Senate visitors' gallery, I decided to make some impromptu remarks concerning the Senate's history. The following week, my older granddaughter was in the gallery with her class, and I made another impromptu speech on Senate history.

The response to those informal narratives was so favorable that I conceived the idea of making a series of history speeches before the Senate, in preparation for the Senate's bicentennial.

Over the subsequent eight years, I made approximately 100 Senate history speeches, of which 42 form the basis for this book's 39 chapters.

The publication of these edited speeches resulted from a resolution graciously offered by my Republican colleague Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska, and passed by the Senate.

A second volume in this Senate history project is heading for publication later this year, and will focus on the organization and various offices of the Senate.

Copies of the first volume of my Senate history may be purchased by check, money order, VISA, or Mastercard, from the Superintendent of Documents at a cost of \$55, which includes postage, and covers printing costs. I receive no royalties or other remuneration from the sale of this book. Please include Senate Document Number 100-20 and Stock Number 052-071-00823-3 when ordering. Credit card orders may be phoned to (202) 783-3238. Mail orders should be sent, and checks made payable, to: Superintendent of Documents, The Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley VIII At Wheeling's Oglebay Park

Later this month--March 22 and 23--I will be hosting the eighth Software Valley conference in West Virginia.

This conference will be held at Oglebay Park's Wilson Lodge in Wheeling.

Software Valley is a non-profit initiative that promotes research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia.

Since 1985, I have sponsored seven Software Valley conferences throughout West Virginia to explain to state leaders in business, government, industry, and academia the potential economic opportunities posed for West Virginia by computer technology, and to enlist growing numbers of our state's citizens in developing those opportunities.

Currently, eight Software Valley chapters are functioning across West Virginia, with members in 47 of our 55 counties.

Featured at this conference will be procurement officers from several major high-technology manufacturers--McDonnell-Douglas, Boeing, Rockwell, General Dynamics, Grumman, and Martin-Marietta, among them--to discuss with potential West Virginia vendors subcontracting opportunities for America's projected space-station effort and other projects of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The space station is already on engineering drawing boards, and is planned to be built in the next decade.

Spokesmen for these corporations point out that NASA needs everything from nuts and bolts to shipping containers, to fabricated and extremely sophisticated high-technology products. West Virginia companies may discover new marketing opportunities at Software Valley VIII about which they have been previously uninformed.

Also scheduled for this conference is an all-day seminar on March 22 for state manufacturers, dealing with computer-integrated manufacturing and how such technology can be merged into the manufacturing processes of existing and new businesses.

Representatives of West Virginia companies attending this conference are urged to prepare marketing presentations that include descriptions of their products, samples of product lines if possible, the size of their companies, number of employees, outlines of their capabilities, statistics about their plants, and histories of successful past contracts.

Additional information concerning this conference can be obtained from the Software Valley Corporation in Morgantown, telephone number (304) 296-0110.

March 8, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working to Replace The Green Bank Radio Telescope

Last November, the 300-foot radio telescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed.

One of the largest radio telescopes in the world, the Green Bank instrument had long been used by the scientific community to monitor naturally emitted radio signals from outer space, able to detect radio beams from distances as great as 10 billion light years away.

The radio telescope was an important resource at the Observatory, a major national center dedicated to the study of space by the radio telescope, radio antennae, receivers, and other electronic instruments that detect and measure radio waves from outer space.

Recognizing the importance of the collapsed radio telescope to our country and to West Virginia, Senator Rockefeller and I have held discussions with representatives of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to urge a timely replacement of this vital scientific tool.

The loss of the Green Bank radio telescope will have a severe, adverse impact on radio astronomy. Currently, our ongoing astronomical explorations and probes of outer space are suffering from the loss of a significant research

resource.

The radio telescope should be replaced. Green Bank is a unique research site--and an ideal place for a radio telescope, located in a national radio quiet zone, away from the interference of nearby radio transmitters.

Paradoxically, the collapse of the former radio telescope has given us an opportunity to explore the latest new technology in order that we can invest in state-of-the-art equipment to meet our scientific observation needs well into the future.

In addition, replacement of the Green Bank radio telescope will preserve jobs in that area, as well as the advantages that that facility has meant for our state in scientific prestige, educational potential, and tourism.

Replacing an asset of the magnitude of the Green Bank radio telescope requires planning, design, and construction--all time-consuming processes. Even with a sense of urgency, putting in place an operational replacement at Green Bank will require several years.

For those reasons, even with the tight budget constraints under which we are working, I shall continue aggressively pursuing the goal of a replacement for the Green Bank radio telescope.

March 15, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Longtime West Virginia Industry Shows New Vigor

In earlier decades, the timber and wood products industries were among West Virginia's economic mainstays.

Following World War I, however, with West Virginia's forests largely reduced, our state's timber and wood-related industries became secondary performers to other manufacturing and extractive enterprises.

Subsequent to my entering the U.S. Senate, I saw the potential for renewing West Virginia's forestry products industry. Consequently, I obtained federal funds to establish the Forestry Sciences Laboratories in Mercer County and at Morgantown, and in 1987, I obtained an appropriation of \$600,000 to launch the Advanced Hardwood Resource Center at the Mercer County laboratory, to research and develop hardwoods for greater commercial use.

Last year, I also obtained an appropriation of \$3.3 million to establish the Timber Bridge Resource Center at the Morgantown laboratory, to open an important new market for West Virginia's renewable hardwood potential.

Currently, an estimated 240,000 bridges serving rural and secondary roads across the United States need to be repaired or replaced. Research into timber bridge design, wood treatment, and fabrication techniques has demonstrated that timber bridges

can enjoy lifespans of more than 70 years.

As a result of my initiative, the U.S. Forest Service has developed a \$1.8 million program -- \$1 million in federal funds and the rest in state money -- to replace or rehabilitate 33 bridges in West Virginia using modern timber design, processing, and construction.

The 33 bridges are located in 24 West Virginia counties: Mason, Wayne, Logan, Mingo, Wood, Jackson, Wirt, Ritchie, Marion, Grant, Jefferson, Hancock, Wetzel, Brooke, Gilmer, Lewis, Webster, Upshur, Pendleton, Randolph, Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, and Wyoming.

At least three spans are to be placed in each of the ten West Virginia Department of Highways districts.

I am pleased to see my Timber Bridge Initiative start so well. As well as developing new markets for West Virginia's fine hardwoods and upgrading our rural highways, this new industry promises to create jobs through increased timber demand and production, bridge fabrication, and construction.

State officials recently announced that, for the second year running, West Virginia's 1988 timber industry accounted for more than \$1 billion in sales.

Certainly, West Virginia's timber and wood products industry is on a promising trajectory!



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The First Line of Defense Against Flood Disasters

More than a decade ago, the Tug Fork River rampaged through southwestern West Virginia, causing millions of dollars in property damage.

Again, in late 1985, floods swept through northern, northeastern, and southeastern West Virginia, taking lives and smashing property in record proportions.

Those nightmare floods are evidence of the chronic danger that rapid storm development, flash flooding, and other severe weather conditions can bring without warning to countless West Virginia communities.

I have long been concerned about West Virginia's flood potential. I was among those who spearheaded building the R.D. Bailey dam on the Guyandotte River and the Stonewall Jackson dam on the West Fork River. One of my ongoing efforts is that of advancing flood control along the Tug Fork. Following the 1985 floods, in addition to helping to obtain funds for reconstruction and flood clean-up, I was able to incorporate into that effort projects to enhance flood protection in many areas.

I also believe that fast, accurate weather forecasting is one of the best defenses West Virginians can have in order to prepare for floods and severe weather.

For that reason, I

have strengthened and expanded the system of weather stations in West Virginia and obtained a flood-warning system covering 46 counties. The National Weather Service (NWS) currently maintains five stations in West Virginia, in Beckley, Charleston, Elkins, Huntington, and Parkersburg.

Earlier this year, however, the final Reagan Administration budget for Fiscal Year 1990 proposed closing more than 100 weather stations across the country, including four of the five West Virginia stations.

Realizing the dangerous effect that such closings could mean for our state, I urged the Commerce Department to direct the NWS to maintain its current level of personnel and programs in West Virginia. In addition, I won commitments from Senate colleagues to support maintaining the West Virginia weather stations.

In response to my efforts, the Commerce Department decided to keep open all five weather stations in West Virginia.

That is good news for West Virginia.

In the future, I shall continue working to ensure that West Virginia is served by modern, dependable weather observation and flood-warning systems that save lives and protect property.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Are We Heading Toward Another Energy Shock?

Twice in the 1970's, America discovered the economic and security costs that dependence on foreign energy sources carries.

Currently, few people are concerned about the gasoline panics and energy worries of a decade ago. For most Americans, lines at the filling station and drastically lowered thermostats are bad memories.

But in 1988 alone, U.S. energy consumption jumped by 6 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu's) -- the international standard for energy measurement -- higher than in any year since 1973.

Currently, 43 percent of our domestic oil consumption comes from imported sources, with over half of that from the Persian Gulf.

The evidence is clear: the United States must forge a national energy policy, and West Virginia coal, teamed with the Clean Coal Technology Program, should be the centerpiece of that energy policy.

We cannot afford, as we did in 1973 and 1979, to allow world events to catch us unprepared. Our economic well-being and our national security far into the next century depend upon our country's laying the groundwork now to meet America's future energy needs.

Logic decrees that such a national energy policy should revolve around the development of environmentally compatible ways to exploit our

most abundant energy resource: coal.

America's coal reserves -- 82 percent of our total national fossil-fuel energy resources -- are estimated to be the equivalent of 2 trillion barrels of oil, or more than triple the world's known petroleum reserves.

Fortunately, technology is coming on line to allow the environmentally safe consumption of our coal resources.

In recent years, I have secured more than \$1.5 billion in federal funds to develop and demonstrate clean coal technologies. One of those technologies -- the pressurized fluidized-bed combustion system, currently being installed in one American Electric Power Company (AEP) plant in Ohio -- significantly reduces both sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions more effectively and cheaply than old-fashioned, costly "scrubber" systems, and produces electricity more economically than conventional steam-powered electric generating technologies. Another AEP facility -- the Sporn plant in Mason County -- has been selected as the possible site for a larger fluidized-bed operation.

Capitalizing on clean coal technology, then, offers us a sound way to ensure America's energy readiness and environmental health, and to create more jobs in West Virginia's abundant coal fields, as well.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: An Especially Safe Place to Live and Work

Too often in West Virginia, our news is negative -- unemployment, plant closings, and layoffs -- giving many the impression that we have little about which to be positive in West Virginia, particularly in comparison with other places.

That is a mistake.

For example, Washington, D.C., has been called "the Capital of the Free World" -- annually drawing millions of visitors who come to glimpse the beauty and sample the atmosphere of this world-class city.

But at night, parts of Washington assume a character that makes it one of the world's most sinister and dangerous metropolises, so that the city is now being called "the Murder Capital of the Free World."

Already in 1989, more than 130 people have been murdered in Washington.

In spite of the rhetoric of city officials and highly publicized strikes against suspected drug dealers, the crime and drug situation in Washington is growing worse, not better.

In 1987, for example, 227 people were murdered in Washington.

In 1988, that figure had climbed to 372 murders.

As of the end of March, the current murder rate projects to be more than 500 murders in 1989!

Washington is not alone in its high crime rate. Most large American

cities -- Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, and San Francisco, to name but a few -- face nightly and daily clashes with drug lords, pushers, and addicts that are driving up the statistics of murders, robberies, burglaries, and muggings.

We in West Virginia, on the other hand, can take a special satisfaction that, year after year, West Virginia continues to have the lowest all-round crime rate in the United States.

In part, that is attributable to West Virginia's inherently moral and spiritual culture. Reared in religious homes and with family loyalty, most West Virginians possess an ingrained value system that includes respect for other people, a strong sense of self-respect, a strong family ethic, and a regard for the property of neighbors and strangers alike.

West Virginia can also boast many resources and advantages to attract visitors and new enterprises -- natural beauty, wilderness recreation, colorful arts and crafts, and an excellent workforce, to name some.

But one of our State's most outstanding assets is the moral, stable, and law-abiding way of life common throughout West Virginia communities -- all of which combine to make West Virginia an ideal place in which to live, work, and rear one's family.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Line-Item Veto: A Weapon For Political Extortion

The President has asked Congress to amend the Constitution to grant him the power of the "line-item veto."

In fact, the line-item veto would give a President powers never intended by the Constitution or the Founding Fathers, making him the "Chief Legislator," as well as the Chief Executive, thus crippling the checks-and-balances system that has proved itself over the past two centuries.

The line-item veto would give the Executive Branch dominance over the Legislative Branch by placing in the President's hands a weapon of coercion unprecedented in American Constitutional experience.

For example, in recent years, I have been able to continue federal support for a number of programs vital to West Virginia -- Amtrak, essential air service to a number of State airports, the Appalachian Regional Commission and corridor highways, and the Economic Development Administration, to name a few--in spite of White House efforts to eliminate them. Year after year, Congress rejected White House efforts to zero out these programs and voted funds to continue these important priorities.

If the White House were to be given the line-item veto, however, and a piece of legislation came through the Senate on which the White House wanted my vote, the President could threaten to veto one or all of these programs for West Virginia unless I voted as the White House wanted--regardless of the merits of the legislation in question.

With a line-item veto, then, the White House would have a tool with which to try to extort a vote in its favor from any Senator or Congressman.

In their wisdom, the Founding Fathers placed the power of the purse in the hands of the Legislative Branch--the directly elected representatives of the people.

The Executive Branch already has the power to veto spending and tax measures sent to it. To add to that authority the power of the line-item veto would mean giving the President and his advisors -- primarily unelected bureaucrats -- a virtual tyranny over the final legislative work of Congress never intended by the Constitution, as well as an instrument to deny to rural states like West Virginia programs vital to future development.

April 19, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Military Bases Closing Around the Country

Recently, the House of Representatives gave the go-ahead to close all or parts of 91 military bases nationwide to help control our record \$2.8 trillion national debt and triple-digit federal deficits.

Most of the military bases in the U.S. were constructed decades ago, and were located for strategic or geographic reasons.

The Defense Department has also declared its intention not to open any new bases to replace those that are closing.

Unfortunately, this strategy will make the obtaining of any new military facilities for West Virginia extremely difficult, if not impossible.

But paradoxically, in this period of budget restraints and military base closings, West Virginia's role in defense and national security is growing.

In the past, rugged, landlocked West Virginia was at a disadvantage as a site for bases in comparison with states with long coastlines and flat, empty spaces.

But in West Virginia, we have one active-duty military facility--the Naval Radio Receiving Station at Sugar Grove, Pendleton County--and an active-duty Army student training facility at Camp Dawson in Preston County, both of which I obtained for West Virginia.

Also in our state is the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (ABL) in Mineral

County, producing rocket propulsion units and warheads for a variety of defense weapons and missiles, for which I have obtained nearly \$18 million for expansion and improvements.

In addition, through my efforts, the U.S. Coast Guard last year announced plans to relocate its National Operations Center to Martinsburg, bringing with it 51 full-time employees and an annual infusion of nearly \$2 million into the economy of the Eastern Panhandle.

Further, West Virginia has approximately 70 National Guard and Reserve facilities throughout our state, encompassing more than 10,000 mostly part-time military and civilian personnel. As a result of my efforts, nine new Army and Air Force Reserve units will be activated in West Virginia in coming months, bringing with them a combined annual economic impact on West Virginia's economy of roughly \$13 million.

That will be in addition to an ongoing \$110 million military construction program for West Virginia on which I have been working, involving 54 projects, most of which have already been authorized and funded by Congress.

West Virginia's economy will be bolstered by these increased military opportunities in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The 1989 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships

Based on legislation I authored in the U.S. Senate in 1985, this year Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships will be awarded to 41 graduating West Virginia high school students.

These "Byrd Scholars" were selected to receive \$1,500 first-year college scholarships by the State Department of Education, based on nominations received from high schools across West Virginia.

Awarded solely for academic performance, the 1989 West Virginia Byrd Honors Scholarships are among 4,905 being awarded to high school graduates nationwide.

Under the provisions of the legislation, the number of scholarships allotted for each state is based on that state's student population.

Since the inception of the Byrd Honors Scholarships Program, a total of 130 West Virginians have been selected to receive this award.

As I originally conceived this program, these scholarships are intended to encourage excellence in education by giving motivated and able students a boost in pursuing college educations.

I have always been interested in education and scholastic achievement, believing that education can open doors of opportunity to young people that might

otherwise be closed to them. Likewise, I have felt a lifelong indebtedness to those dedicated, selfless teachers and others who encouraged me to strive to reach the highest goals of which I was capable.

In that attitude, since 1969, under the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Awards program funded from a private trust that I established, I have presented U.S. Savings Bonds to approximately 5,200 valedictorians graduating from West Virginia public, parochial, private, and Schools for the Deaf and Blind.

The success of the Scholastic Recognition Awards prompted me to initiate the national Honors Scholarships program, which the Senate voted to name in my honor at the suggestion of my colleague Republican Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska.

The young West Virginians and Americans winning this year's Byrd Honors Scholarships are exceptional, and they deserve our support and encouragement.

Indeed, these students represent an important resource for, and investment in, West Virginia's and America's future, and I am especially gratified to have had a role in advancing their educations and encouraging them toward the fulfillment of their own promise.

May 3, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Welcome Economic Signals in West Virginia

Recently, West Virginians have received some uplifting economic news.

A recent U.S. Census Bureau annual report states that West Virginia's per capita share in federal procurement has increased from 50th among the states in 1987 to 46th in 1988.

In prime defense procurement -- not including subcontracts -- West Virginia moved from 49th to 45th among the states -- a welcome advance for a state until recently not oriented toward defense prime-contracting.

Although these rankings are still not good enough, they reflect an encouraging trend, especially in view of our state's traditional base of heavy domestic manufacturing and raw minerals extraction and processing, coupled with the overall decline of federal procurement under federal budget constraints from 1987 to 1988.

Indeed, West Virginia was one of only 16 states enjoying an increase in federal procurement spending.

Again, as a result of the Software Valley movement -- a non-profit movement that I launched to promote research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia -- more and more out-of-state high-tech companies have heard

about West Virginia and are doing business in our state.

Recently, for instance, I had a meeting in my Capitol office with the President of McDonnell Douglas Space Systems, a subsidiary of the giant aerospace corporation. He had attended the Software Valley space symposium that I held in Shepherdstown earlier this year, and had sent a representative to the March Software Valley conference I sponsored in Wheeling. This corporate president said that those meetings had spotlighted a capability in West Virginia of which he had been previously unaware, and that he was now compiling a list of West Virginia companies interested in competing for subcontracts for the projected U.S. space station.

In addition, West Virginia is showing increased promise in timber, hardwood products, and tourism -- areas that state business leaders in a recent survey pinpointed as industries in the state offering the greatest growth potential.

I am gratified that the efforts I and others are making appear to be winning the attention of industries and enterprises that can create more job opportunities for talented and eager men and women in West Virginia.

May 10, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The New Industrial Revolution Comes To West Virginia

Eli Whitney, the inventor of the cotton gin, was also a father of modern industry.

In the late 1790's, in an era when firearms were fashioned by hand, one at a time, the United States Army awarded Whitney a contract for ten thousand muskets.

Whitney, however, built machines to produce identical parts of the musket in the hundreds and thousands, each piece interchangeable with the same piece on every other musket of that model.

That procedure became one of the most revolutionary aspects of the Industrial Revolution -- mass production.

That willingness to innovate, to adapt, to change, or to revolutionize, became a hallmark of American business and industry.

Currently, the United States and West Virginia are racing to meet the competition for domestic and international markets.

To flourish and succeed in today's heated competition, West Virginians and other Americans need the innovative spirit and attitude of Eli Whitney and others who built our state's and nation's earlier industrial might.

In short, we need a new Industrial Revolution.

Currently, the most promising avenue open to us is to modernize American industry by mov-

ing to "flexible computer integrated manufacturing" -- retooling our factories with computerized manufacturing -- versatile machines that are capable of performing several tasks, and that can be reprogrammed in minutes to produce a variety of goods.

Last year, I helped to obtain an agreement from the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency -- DARPA -- and General Electric to conduct research and develop high-tech manufacturing techniques at both West Virginia University (WVU) and Marshall University.

The purpose of these programs will be to develop prototype "factories of tomorrow" to give West Virginia businesses an opportunity to see firsthand how computer-driven manufacturing techniques can help us diversify and produce our products more competitively.

West Virginians justly have a reputation as skilled and industrious workers. The high-technology programs at WVU and Marshall University promise to put our state in the front lines of the emerging "high-tech" Industrial Revolution by giving West Virginians ready access to mastering new manufacturing skills, and by creating new industrial and job opportunities in West Virginia.

May 17, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Flood Control on West Virginia Rivers

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Stonewall Jackson Dam has already, this year, saved Weston and the Lower West Fork River Basin more than \$11 million in flood damages -- only one example of benefits that West Virginians are reaping this year from flood-control projects across the State.

This spring has been particularly rainy in many sections of West Virginia.

Heavy rainfall in West Virginia has often meant devastating, life-taking floods -- as the terrible 1985 floods remind us.

West Virginians know too well how placid streams can turn into raging, smashing killers in minutes.

For that reason, one of my ongoing Senate priorities has been to advance flood control in our state.

Besides the Stonewall Jackson Dam, among flood control projects that I initiated, and for which I obtained federal funding, are the Tug Fork Valley project in Southern West Virginia, the R.D. Bailey Dam in Wyoming County, and the Burnsville and Sutton Dams in Braxton County.

In addition to this year's figures, the Army Corps estimates that, since 1985, the Stonewall Jackson Dam has saved area communities roughly \$39.9 million in flood

damage.

Further, a recent report estimates that the R.D. Bailey Dam saved Guyandotte Valley residents approximately \$24 million during 1984 rains, while the Army Corps estimates that Burnsville Dam has, this year, prevented estimated damage valued at approximately \$3.8 million to Braxton County property.

Currently, other West Virginia flood control efforts on which I am working are moving toward completion.

In the Tug Fork Valley flood control project, the West Williamson floodwall will be dedicated this summer, and the Downtown Williamson floodwall is progressing.

In addition, the Upper Mud River Watershed project in Lincoln, Boone, and Cabell Counties, and the Soak Creek Watershed project in Raleigh County, are also advancing toward completion.

Further, at my request, flood control studies are currently being conducted at Moorefield and Petersburg on the South Branch of the Potomac River, on the Greenbrier River, and in the Cheat-Monongahela Rivers Basin.

Flood control is paying precious dividends that are repaying us with more secure lives and property for countless West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Watching Out for America's Own Interests

In an effort to encourage Japan to shoulder more of its own defense burdens, the White House has negotiated a proposed \$7 billion deal between the United States and Japan to build jointly a new, ultra-modern FSX jet fighter.

Substantial evidence suggests, however, that some factions in Japan see the FSX deal primarily as a means of furthering Japan's stated goal of establishing a world-class aerospace industry within a decade.

The agreement with Japan -- which would see the FSX fighter produced in Japan using mostly American technology -- was apparently negotiated without concern about the effect that such a transfer of technology might have on America's economic and industrial future.

In recent decades, one by one, the Japanese government has unhesitatingly targeted key industries -- computers, semiconductors, televisions, and VCR's, to name a few -- and deliberately cut prices below costs to take over crucial foreign markets. The primary impact of such competition has been an unparalleled loss of jobs in industrial states such as West Virginia.

Moreover, the Jap-

anese tend to view economic power in terms of national security and influence.

The U.S. government needs to take a page out of the Japanese success book. If we do this, we will not lose sight of the fact that economic security is a key element of America's national security.

An effort in the Senate -- which I supported -- to disapprove of the FSX deal with Japan narrowly failed.

However, I succeeded in adding an amendment to the final resolution to help protect our national security and economic interests in this project.

My amendment requires that at least 40 percent of the work involved in producing the FSX and in supplying its future spare parts be given to U.S. companies, and that Japan be prohibited from sale of the FSX or its major components to third countries.

Most important, my amendment bars transfer of sensitive engine technology to Japan.

As this legislation goes to a Senate-House conference committee and then to the White House, I hope that the concerns in my amendment will be retained.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Happy 126th Birthday, West Virginia!

On June 20, 1989, the State of West Virginia celebrates its 126th birthday.

In the early 1860's, as West Virginia's founding fathers met and debated statehood in Wheeling, America was torn by a bloody Civil War.

In those Virginia counties that were projected to form a new state, guerrilla warfare did not portend well for West Virginia's future.

In fact, in 1863 when West Virginia became the Thirty-Fifth State of the Union, much of the current state still lay inside Confederate territory.

And had those men who led the West Virginia statehood movement fallen into Confederate hands, they would have been liable for trial for treason.

The faith and character of those men and of their fellow West Virginians held firm, however, and out of that era of struggle emerged our great state, which became a participant in the most vibrant age of industrial expansion in human history.

Our own era, however, is a time of industrial and economic change.

Unfortunately, much of that change has disrupted the lives of many West Virginians and their communities.

But throughout West Virginia, citizens are uniting in efforts to promote our state and to create new opportunities for

its future.

Through individual and group efforts, the tourism industry is becoming one of West Virginia's most promising enterprises.

Through the Software Valley movement and other high-tech ventures, West Virginians are laying foundations for expanding software and high-tech possibilities in the future.

Through a combination of advancing forest husbandry and woodworking technology, West Virginia's wood products industry is expanding in several locales.

Both West Virginia University and Marshall University, as well as many of our state and private colleges, are aggressively reaching out to lend technical and academic assistance to local and regional businesses and industries oriented toward growth and vision.

And communities throughout West Virginia are at work on improvements and campaigns to attract new enterprises.

I have great faith in West Virginia and West Virginians. Once again, through the faith, character, and hard work that have always distinguished the people of our state, a new era is dawning in West Virginia.

Happy Birthday, West Virginia! You can be justly proud of yourself.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Step Forward in Opening More Markets to Our Exports

In recent years as trade between nations grew, many countries joined the chorus calling for "freer trade."

In practice, however, some of those countries have wanted freer trade for their goods to enter the United States, but have retained barriers that keep American goods out of their markets.

Realizing that duplicity, last year I sponsored a "world market-opening initiative" trade amendment to enable our government to pressure such countries into correcting inequities that block our goods from their markets, or face U.S. retaliation against their products in our markets.

Last month, the White House, using the amendment that I cosponsored, officially targeted Japan, Brazil, and India as countries that have erected or retained unfair trading barriers against U.S. exports.

Under the provisions of my amendment, our official U.S. Trade Representative now has 18 months to investigate these unfair practices and to negotiate

their removal with the targeted countries; otherwise, our government will retaliate.

I commend the Administration for taking this great first step forward in initiating action against foreign discrimination toward American exports.

For too long, workers and companies in West Virginia and other states have faced obstacles in getting their products into overseas markets, while foreign goods have entered our domestic markets with increased freedom.

In crafting this "market-opening initiative," I had, and continue to have, high hopes that this amendment will give our government a stronger weapon by which to inspire greater fairness in the international marketplace.

The ultimate goal of my amendment is to open markets abroad, not to close them here at home. To have genuinely free world trade, the market pipeline must be equally and fairly open to traffic at both ends.

June 14, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Fourth of July: More Significant Than Ever

On the back of a one-dollar bill are found the two sides of "The Great Seal of the United States" -- our country's official seal.

Under the pyramid on the left is inscribed the Latin motto, "Novus Ordo Seclorum"-- in English, "A New Order of the Ages."

That motto refers to the belief of the Founding Fathers that, with their Declaration of Independence from the English Crown in 1776, a new era in human history had opened--a new era in which no longer would arbitrary rule and despotism have the final authority in the affairs of mankind. From that day forward--July 4, 1776--free men and women had the right to take responsibility for their own destinies under a covenant of self-government and laws that they themselves had forged.

We are on the threshold of the 213th celebration of that momentous first Fourth of July--the birthdate not only of our Nation, but also of a revolutionary form of representative government and enhanced citizenship alike.

This year, perhaps more poignantly and gratefully than in many years past, West Virginians and other Americans can

understand more fully the significance of the Fourth of July.

For months we have witnessed the gradual steps that the Polish people have achieved in their struggle to pry out of their country's Communist regime some of the basic rights with which every West Virginian is endowed at birth.

For weeks we have witnessed the horrors wrought upon the Chinese people by a government that understands itself as no way limited either by constitutional restraints or by the constraints of civil decency, in response to mass calls for a fraction of the democracy that those people know that Americans enjoy.

And in the Soviet Union, we have witnessed a universal yearning for liberty that even seven decades of grinding tyranny have not extinguished.

Who would have guessed thirty years ago that the forces of freedom would still be so strong in what seemed to be the impregnable Communist world after decades of oppression?

The signers of the Declaration of Independence would not have been surprised.

They knew that the first Fourth of July was indeed the beginning of "A New Order of the Ages."

June 21, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Emergency Funds for West Virginia

Congress has passed and sent to the White House the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill of 1989, a measure to supply funding to federal programs facing shortfalls before the end of the current fiscal year, in which I won funds for a number of important West Virginia projects.

This bill, for example, contains \$75 million that I added to replace the 300-foot radio telescope that collapsed last November at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, Pocahontas County.

Under this bill, the \$75 million will be split into two installments--half appropriated immediately and half to become available October 1 of this year.

Other emergency funding included in this bill earmarks \$6.6 million that I requested to provide continued subsidies under the Essential Air Service program for basic air service to West Virginia airports that cannot guarantee ridership adequate to attract air carriers without such subsidies.

The West Virginia airports that will continue receiving these subsidies are Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown.

Other provisions for which I obtained funding

are:

-- a directive requiring that \$8.9 million in emergency grants be distributed this year to rural, nonprofit hospitals throughout the country, for assisting in providing quality health care. Nine West Virginia hospitals --in Wetzel, Braxton, Wood, Preston, Lewis, Tyler, Logan, Pocahontas, and Webster counties -- have applied for funds under this program;

--\$1 million to build a community center at the Naval Radio Receiving Station at Sugar Grove, Pendleton County;

--a directive clearing the way for awarding an additional \$900,000 for completion of the Logan County airport; and

--\$250,000 in matching funds for an early warning signal in Kanawha County to alert residents of serious chemical leaks or spills.

Of importance to West Virginia veterans was \$1.2 billion included in this bill for emergency funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, of which nearly \$350 million is targeted for health care issues.

This legislation meets the emergency needs of many programs, and will ensure that programs and services vital to West Virginians and other Americans can continue on schedule.

June 28, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

In Loving Defense of "Old Glory"

During the 1984 Republican National Convention, a self-avowed young Communist burned a U.S. flag on a Dallas street and was convicted under Texas law of "desecration of a venerated object."

A series of appeals took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which recently ruled 5-4 that the First Amendment of the Constitution protects protesters who burn American flags in political demonstrations.

The First Amendment to the Constitution declares that, "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech . . ."

On that basis, the Court ruled unconstitutional the Texas law protecting the flag. However, as one dissenting Justice stated, rather than an act of speech, "Flag-burning is the equivalent of an inarticulate grunt . . . most likely to be indulged in not to express any particular idea, but to antagonize others."

I respect the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech.

But the Supreme Court's decision in this instance irrationally stretches every concept of "freedom

of speech" envisioned by the authors of the First Amendment to our Constitution, and the American people who ratified that Amendment.

Therefore, I am introducing in the Senate a Constitutional amendment that would allow Congress and the States "to prohibit and punish the desecrating, mutilating, defacing, defiling, or burning of any flag of the United States." The U.S. flag is a symbol of our Nation, of our aspirations as a people, and of the sacrifices that thousands of Americans have made on behalf of our country.

I believe that our flag deserves full protection under the Constitution. A Constitutional amendment outlawing desecration of the flag would in no way infringe upon First Amendment rights.

Burning or desecrating the American flag does not constitute free "speech." Flag-burning is a deplorable action that should not be condoned under our Constitution.

At some point, any freedom can cross the line into unbridled license, and the desecration of the American flag crosses that line reprehensibly.

July 5, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Dropping the Ball on the Environment, the Economy, and Energy

Like most Americans, I am concerned about our environment.

Currently, roughly 57 percent of America's electric energy generating capacity is coal-based, and coal is now supplying nearly one-quarter of all of our country's energy needs.

Environmentalists, however, have long pointed to coal-generated electric power plants as major sources of acid rain.

In an effort to remedy much of that problem, and to ensure the continued health and growth of West Virginia's economy and coal industry, I authored legislation in 1984 establishing the national Clean Coal Technology program to promote the use of coal in an environmentally acceptable manner.

Recently developed clean coal technologies have proved capable of reducing over 95 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions. Moreover, they will also reduce a high percentage of nitrogen oxide emissions. They are more cost-effective than conventional anti-pollution scrubber technologies.

Recently, the Administration issued proposals to curb acid rain.

Although I compliment the President for striving to reach a consensus on this important subject, I fear that his Administration dropped the ball on this issue. The proposals do not make good environmental, economic, or energy sense.

Unfortunately, the Administration's proposals, rather than encouraging the employment of clean coal technologies, invite utilities merely to switch fuels -- for example, moving from high-sulfur to low-sulfur coal -- without affording the greater emissions reductions that clean coal technology is proving achievable.

In addition, since 40 percent of our Nation's coal reserves are high-sulfur, the Administration's proposals threaten the loss of up to 10,000 mining jobs in Eastern coal-producing states -- an unfair burden to place on the economies of states like West Virginia.

Given America's rising energy demands in an energy-short world, an approach that would serve to discourage the development of technologies that would render vast high-sulfur coal reserves environmentally safer is shortsighted.

Certainly, we must curb acid rain. But we need also to protect the economies of coal-producing states like West Virginia.

With those goals in mind, I shall work for an acid rain control program that is environmentally effective, economically equitable, and energy wise, and that provides genuine incentives to encourage clean-burning technologies to capitalize on West Virginia's vast coal reserves.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A West Virginia Contribution to America's Scientific Leadership

Surveys in recent years have shown American junior- and senior-high school students performing alarmingly below their counterparts in many other countries--notably Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan--in scientific and mathematical skills and knowledge.

In an age in which widespread scientific, technological, and mathematical abilities are often decisive for national economic progress and competitiveness, such poor performances by young Americans should be a cause for concern by all citizens interested in our country's future.

Certainly, inspiring greater scientific and mathematical aptitude among our youth should be a national priority.

One ongoing program in our state has pioneered in that effort.

This July, West Virginia again played host to the National Youth Science Camp.

Initiated in 1963 as a feature of West Virginia's centennial celebration, for the 26th year, the Camp drew 100 brilliant and promising students nationwide to the Pocahontas County 4-H camp at Bartow.

The Youth Science Camp is composed of two students from each state, selected on the bases of academic achievement, leadership abilities, and interest in a science-oriented

career.

For three weeks annually, these outstanding students take part in lectures and discussions on biology, physics, astrophysics, botany, zoology, geology, and other sciences; hike, camp, and explore caves in West Virginia's forests and mountains; and enjoy personal contact with some of the leading scientists, technical experts, and research pioneers of our era.

Over the past few years, I have been privileged to host the National Youth Science campers on a special visit to Washington, during which they can meet their Senators and Congressmen, hear outstanding speakers at a Senate luncheon, and tour such significant Washington sites as the National Air and Space Museum.

West Virginia's own delegates to the Camp this year are Joel Alexander Brown of South Charleston, and Tony Donguang Shan of Fairmont.

In the immediate years ahead, America must encourage more of its young people to accept the discipline and challenge of careers in science, research, and technology.

But all West Virginians can take pride in the pioneering advances in that direction that our own National Youth Science Camp has been making for more than a quarter-century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Important Funds for West Virginia's Wood-Products Industries

Since entering the U.S. Senate, I have worked to promote the growth of West Virginia's forest-related and wood-products industries -- growth to bring increased employment, new factories, and a greater prosperity for West Virginia.

Thus, some years ago, I secured appropriations to establish the Forestry Sciences Laboratories in Morgantown and Princeton, and to provide an addition to the Forest Service Timber and Watershed Laboratory at Parsons, and I have worked consistently to ensure continued funds to improve the forests in our State.

More recently, I have developed new wood-products initiatives to help broaden and diversify West Virginia's economy.

For example, last year, I also obtained a \$3.3 million appropriation to establish the Timber Bridge Initiative, including a \$1 million appropriation to replace or rehabilitate 33 bridges in West Virginia as demonstration projects, in a program that could bring about replacement of up to 271,000 obsolete and unsound bridges nationwide with treated hardwood materials.

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I won Senate approval of funds for a number of West Virginia forestry-related programs.

For example, I obtained \$2.4 million for the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Princeton, for physical improvements, for a feasibility study aimed at establishing a flexible manufacturing facility for hardwoods processing in Mercer County, and for the Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Center that I obtained for the lab in 1987. Last year, I secured appropriations to study the establishment of a state-of-the-art technology hardwoods-processing training center at Princeton.

Further, among this year's appropriations, I got \$3.6 million to enlarge the Timber Bridge program that I initiated last year, including another \$1 million to build timber bridges in West Virginia in 1990.

Also, I obtained \$1.1 million for the Parsons laboratory to fund continued research in forest improvement and management, and \$13 million for the Monongahela National Forest, to fund forest maintenance, and improvements to roads and sites such as the Seneca Rocks and Spruce Knob recreation areas.

Final approval of these appropriations will be an important step in the progress of West Virginia's expanding hardwoods industry -- an enterprise holding great promise for our state's economic future.

July 26, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funds for Appalachian Corridor Highways in West Virginia

In 1965, I was an author of legislation creating the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), an agency charged with promoting progress and economic growth throughout the 13-state Appalachian Region.

One of ARC's most important contributions to West Virginia has been construction of the Appalachian corridor highways in our state.

The Appalachian corridor highway system is an important part of West Virginia's total highway system. Currently, approximately 266.1 miles of the originally planned Appalachian corridors in West Virginia have been completed or are under construction.

Among these completed or mostly completed highways are: Corridor D--U.S. 50 from Parkersburg to Clarksburg; Corridor E--U.S. 48 from Morgantown east through Preston County to the Maryland line; Corridor L--U.S. 19 from Braxton County to Beckley; and Corridor Q--U.S. 460 through Mercer County.

With 18 miles of crucial links to be completed is Corridor G--U.S. 119 from Charleston to the Kentucky line.

Another Appalachian corridor highway on which work has begun but which remains largely unfinished is Corridor H--projected to pass through Lewis, Upshur, and Randolph Counties, and then east

into Virginia by one of two yet undetermined routes.

In spite of the previous Administration's efforts over eight years to terminate the ARC program, I and other Appropriations Committee members succeeded in keeping it alive, and the completion of the ARC highway network in West Virginia is among my foremost priorities.

To that end, I have won Senate approval of a \$40 million appropriation specifically targeted for construction work on West Virginia Corridors G and H next year--more than triple the funding allocated through ARC to West Virginia corridor highways last year.

Historically, West Virginia's economic progress has been retarded by inadequate transportation through its rugged terrain.

Construction of the Interstate and Appalachian corridor highways has opened new areas of our state for development and investment, and completion of the corridor highways is a key to West Virginia's future growth and economic strength.

Funding for ARC continues to be an uphill battle, and this appropriation must be agreed to in a Senate-House conference committee, but Senate approval of these highway funds was an important step toward speeding the completion of Corridors G and H.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Federal Funds to Enhance West Virginia's Tourism Appeal

Thomas Jefferson wrote that the view overlooking Harpers Ferry was "one of the most stupendous scenes in nature."

In recent years, increased numbers of visitors to our state have made similar comments about other sites in West Virginia.

Annually, more and more visitors are coming into West Virginia for vacations, fishing, hunting, camping, skiing, and whitewater rafting and canoeing.

Currently, tourism is one of West Virginia's fastest growing industries.

To increase West Virginia's appeal to tourists, I have been working on several initiatives to improve facilities and broaden the attraction of a number of locations.

For example, I recently added a \$10.5 million appropriation for construction and land acquisition at the New River Gorge National River in Southern West Virginia.

The New River Gorge has the potential to become one of the premier tourist and whitewater-rafting attractions of the eastern United States, and this funding will move the Gorge further toward that goal.

Moreover, I have also added a \$2.5 million appropriation for construction and further restoration

of historic buildings at the popular Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Another appropriation that I got is \$13 million for land acquisition, improvements, and maintenance for the Monongahela National Forest.

Located within easy reach of the major population centers of the East, the Monongahela National Forest is drawing growing numbers of tourists each year.

Included in the appropriations that I obtained for the forest is funding for an auditorium and exhibit area at Seneca Rocks, campground improvements at Spruce Knob, overlooks along the Highland Scenic Highway/Byway, construction of the Falls of Hills Creek Trail, the federal share of building the Cass-Snowshoe road, and right-of-way purchase along CSX rail track for the proposed Blackwater Canyon Scenic Railroad.

Further, I added \$850,000 to an appropriations bill to acquire 13 Ohio River islands to establish West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge.

These appropriations will enhance our state's emerging tourism appeal, with the added jobs and opportunities that that advantage can mean.

August 9, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America Needs to Bolster Our Steel Industry Further

Recently, the President extended quotas on foreign steel imported into our country for only another two-and-one-half years.

While I am pleased that the President extended the quotas, I do not believe that two-and-one-half years is adequate.

In the early 1970's, heavily subsidized foreign steel companies began dumping steel on the U.S. market at below-cost prices, resulting in unprecedented layoffs in the U.S. steel industry and in related industries such as metallurgical coal.

In 1983, the administration announced that it would negotiate a series of bilateral voluntary restraint agreements (VRA's) with steel-exporting nations, to reduce the imported steel penetration of the U.S. market.

The 1983 VRA's, scheduled to expire this September, allowed American steel companies to modernize their technologies and improve their competitiveness.

By 1987, domestic steel production costs were down by 35 percent, productivity was up by 40 percent, and domestic steel quality had greatly improved.

For example, Weirton Steel and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel in West Virginia, through modernization, are currently emerging as strong competitors in the world market.

But these two West

Virginia steel companies and other domestic steel producers need more time to put into place even newer technologies to help them gain a market edge over subsidized foreign steel operations.

To that end, Senator Rockefeller and I had sought a five-year extension of the VRA's, and I regret that the President gave the steel industry only half that long.

However, in my Interior Appropriations bill, there is an appropriation of \$15.9 million for a steel initiative to help American producers develop more technologies to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

We have reached a breakthrough point on a number of new steel technologies, but we need to continue to cushion our domestic steel industry from the impact of foreign imports while we bring these new technologies into production.

Steel is not just another enterprise in our country.

America's domestic steel industry is a cornerstone of our national security, industrial base, and economic infrastructure.

In World Wars I and II, our steel industry was one of our greatest assets in achieving final victory.

Strengthening our domestic steel-production capability is essential for our national economic health and our future industrial and military might.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Curbing Lobbying Abuses and Influence-Peddling in Washington

In recent months, reports have streamed out of Washington about insiders and lobbyists who have reaped financial wind-falls at taxpayers' expense.

Reportedly, exorbitant sums have been siphoned off by individuals working outside the prescribed merit-based, decision-making processes, relying instead on political connections in dealing with the government.

Certain programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in recent months have earned particular notoriety.

For example, a recent audit by HUD's Inspector General revealed that only 204 of more than 3,000 public housing authorities nationwide, eligible to receive HUD funding for moderate housing rehabilitation, were selected during a five-year period, with 10 states winning more than half of the allocations for that program.

During that period, West Virginia and many other states were rejected for rehabilitation applications, while political cronies had no difficulty in getting HUD projects approved by bypassing regulations.

In reaction to such abuses, the Senate recently approved my legislation to curb lobbying abuse and influence-peddling by prohibiting the use of federal

funds to pay lobbyists; and requiring federal grant, loan, and contract applicants to disclose the names of all lobbyists paid with non-federal funds, what non-federal funds they were paid, and the services they performed in obtaining federal grants, loans, and other services.

The heads of Federal agencies, in turn, would be required to report such information to Congress. This measure provides penalties of \$100,000 for each violation in which lobbyists were paid federal funds, and \$100,000 for each failure to report required information when lobbyists were paid non-federal funds.

Notably, failure to comply with these reporting regulations would subject the federally funded programs in question to cancellation.

West Virginians and other Americans are fed up with the dishonest awarding of federal contracts, grants, and services.

In this era of budget constraints and deficit reduction, tax money should not be frittered away on questionable projects, selected simply because they were being promoted by well-connected lobbyists.

The awarding of federal contracts on any basis other than merit is not in the best interests of our country, and should not be tolerated.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Update on Free Federal Information Hotlines

West Virginians often have questions about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly. From experience, I have found that the following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians find answers to some of their questions.

Retired Army Pay Problems.....1-800-428-2290
Cancer Information, Department of
Health and Human Services.....1-800-638-6694
National Runaway Switchboard.....1-800-621-4000
(for parents and runaways to leave messages)
Parents Anonymous (child abuse)....1-800-421-0353
Consumer Product Safety Commission.1-800-638-2772
(product recall, complaints, fact sheets)
Environmental Protection Agency.....1-800-424-9346
(hazardous waste information)
Scholarship Information (National), Department of
Health and Human Services.....1-800-638-0824
Air Force Recruitment Information...1-800-423-USA
Army Recruitment Information.....1-800-872-2769
Marine Corps Recruitment Information.1-800-423-2600
Navy Recruitment Information1-800-327-6289
Pesticide Emergency Information
Clearinghouse 1-800-858-7378
Federal Emergency Management Agency.1-800-638-6620
(flood insurance information)
National Health Information
Clearinghouse 1-800-336-4797
Small Business Administration.....1-800-368-5855
(answer desk)
Social Security Administration.....1-800-848-0106
(Medicare questions)
Veterans' Benefits Counseling.....1-800-642-3520
Transportation Department.....1-800-424-9393
(auto safety information and complaints)
Washington, D.C., Central
Reservation Center.....1-800-554-2220
(information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)

August 30, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's Key Space Age Listening Post

Recently, millions watched in fascination the pictures the spacecraft *Voyager 2* transmitted back to earth from the planet Neptune.

Launched in 1977, *Voyager 2* has travelled 4.43 billion miles into space, progressively sending back invaluable information about Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and now Neptune.

While people have fantasized about space travel for generations, since the late 1950's, positive space achievements have portended that mankind has a realistic future among the planets of our solar system and beyond.

In that ongoing effort, a West Virginia facility will be playing a significant role.

Last November, the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$75 million to an appropriation bill three months ago to replace the destroyed instrument. Preliminary design studies costing \$500,000 are now underway.

Currently, the National Science Foundation's plans call for the replacement telescope's engineering drawings to be completed in late 1990.

The contract for construction of the new telescope is scheduled for

March 1991, with completion of construction by late 1994, and initial telescope operation to begin in 1995.

To be 330 feet in diameter--the equivalent of the length of a football field--the new Green Bank radio telescope will be the world's largest. A state-of-the-art instrument, complete with super-accurate laser-aiming capacities, this new radio telescope will ensure America's leadership in this aspect of space research for decades into the twenty-first century, and could be an important spur to continuing technological development in West Virginia.

Built originally at a cost of roughly \$850,000 in the early 1960's, the old radio telescope, reduced by the November collapse to a 600-ton jumble of twisted steel girders, had been used during 26 years by some one thousand university and research astronomers, 120 of those in 1988 alone.

Understandably, the collapse brought a cry of dismay from the Nation's scientific community, with calls for an early replacement.

Solid efforts toward that replacement are on course, with West Virginia to reap the distinction of becoming the home of one of America's most important space-explorational tools and host to some of the world's leading scientists.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's War Against Drug Abuse

Recently, President Bush, responding to the requirements of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 that Congress passed last year, presented his drug-war proposals in a nationwide telecast.

I applaud the President's commitment to galvanizing our country in the drug-abuse battle.

Drug abuse has ballooned into a threat to America's well-being, security, and national character. It is costing lives, undermining the safety and peace of countless communities across the country -- including many in West Virginia--and giving birth to thousands of drug-addicted babies born to drug-abusing mothers, a legacy the social costs of which we will be paying long into the future.

Unfortunately, the Administration's proposal suggests meager means by which to finance a serious assault on drug abuse.

Even though West Virginia continues to enjoy the lowest crime rates in the country, drug lords are active in our state and will likely increase their efforts to sell their poison in states like West Virginia.

Small rural states like West Virginia will be hard pressed to underwrite new drug-fighting campaigns without federal help.

Further, the Administration's proposal

calls for siphoning off funds from federal programs on which West Virginia and other states depend to solve other problems and to create economic opportunities, a robbing-Peter-to-pay-Paul approach at best.

Another problem with the current proposal is a lack of vision and freshness in attacking the problem of demand.

Cocaine is an old drug, and South American peasants have been harvesting coca leaves for centuries.

In recent years, however, the soaring demand for cocaine and crack in the United States has turned coca cultivation into the top cash crop in some Latin American nations.

American demand for illicit drugs is our greatest problem.

Reversing that demand will require continuing education--a coordinated national effort to erase the demand that has made drugs a multi-billion dollar annual enterprise enriching "narco-traffickers" here and abroad.

In spite of these caveats, I look forward to working with the Administration to develop realistic strategies that will enable us to banish the drug plague from America and West Virginia!

September 13, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Targeting Excellence In West Virginia Schools

Recently, the College Board released the results of the 1989 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) -- the nation's largest college admissions examination and a widely cited barometer of high school performance.

The comparative U.S. and West Virginia results for the past two years were:

U.S.	Verbal	Math
1988:	428	476
1989:	427	476
West Virginia	Verbal	Math
1988:	451	496
1989:	448	491

Unfortunately, for the third straight year, the national verbal-test point average dropped.

And though we can take some satisfaction in West Virginia's above-average performance two years running, we should be concerned about the drop between 1988 and 1989.

Moreover, we should be concerned that, on a test with a possible combined top score of 1600 points, some of the brightest students in West Virginia averaged only about 58 or 59 percent in correct answers both years.

Education is an important key to America's and West Virginia's future economic prosperity and world commercial position.

We owe to our teachers and school administrators a special debt of appreciation. In their

hands we have placed a major responsibility for preparing our children to earn livings and to assume the leadership of our country.

But the schools cannot be expected to carry those burdens alone. Concerned parents and all others who influence young people can underline for them the paramount importance of pursuing excellence in one's school career.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently obtained Committee approval of \$9 million for fourth-year funding of the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships, a program providing \$1,500 college stipends to students who have excelled in high school academics.

Since its inception in 1985, 130 West Virginians have been selected to receive the Byrd Honors Scholarship.

I believe that young people take seriously those endeavors in which their families, their neighbors, and adults whom they admire show interest.

In the first month of a new school year, I hope all those concerned about the future of our country and our state will encourage young people throughout West Virginia to set higher learning goals for themselves and to excel in the matchless educational opportunities that are theirs.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Defense Dollars for West Virginia

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently won Committee approval of new funds for West Virginia in the Defense and Military Construction Appropriations bills.

Most notably, I obtained approval of \$30 million for a high-tech research program being conducted in conjunction with West Virginia University by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

In this program -- the Concurrent Engineering Initiative -- West Virginia University (WVU), in cooperation with several other academic institutions and major defense-related corporations, will coordinate research and technology transfer programs to harness information and knowledge -processing technologies to improve American manufacturing productivity, allowing us to update our products to meet market demands more efficiently.

Additionally, the DARPA-WVU program could help West Virginia diversify its economy, bringing new jobs and challenging opportunities for West Virginians.

The Committee also approved my requests for \$2.9 million for a Navy high-tech teaching factory for which Marshall University is competing, and \$7 million for a model factory to produce advanced defense materials for which Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing's plant in Jefferson County is competing.

Further, I won

Committee approval of \$4.5 million for renovations at Allegany Ballistics Laboratory in Mineral County, one of only 64 federally owned, contractor-operated defense plants in the country.

In the military construction bill, I obtained approval of \$5.3 million for a National Guard aviation-support facility and armory in Wheeling, \$1.5 million for an addition and renovation at the Guard's property and fiscal office in Buckhannon, \$3.8 million for a jet-fuel storage complex and training facility at Martinsburg, \$546,000 for a Guard armory addition at Huntington, and \$245,000 for a Guard security police operations addition at Charleston.

Also approved were my requests for Army Reserve construction for centers and maintenance shops in each of the following places: \$3.2 million for Beckley, \$2.2 million at Rainelle, \$1.9 million at Morgantown, \$1.4 million for Elkins, and \$1.4 million for Kingwood.

The military construction bill also includes my requests for \$900,000 to purchase land for a new Army Reserve Center in Charleston and \$300,000 for the Air National Guard to purchase added land at Yeager Airport in Charleston.

Cumulatively, these construction projects would mean \$27.2 million in new military facilities for West Virginia, bringing more jobs and federal funds into our state's economy.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The New *U.S.S. West Virginia* Goes to Sea

On October 14, my wife, Erma, and I will be participants in the christening and launching at Groton, Connecticut, of the U.S. Navy's new Trident submarine named in honor of the State of West Virginia.

More than two years ago, at my request, the Navy agreed to name one of its four new advanced, high-tech Trident submarines, then under construction, in honor of West Virginia.

Because this vessel will honor West Virginia's military veterans, and because my wife has been named a sponsor of this new submarine, I am particularly gratified by this launching.

The *U.S.S. West Virginia* will be an element -- the 11th -- in the fleet ballistic missile submarine contingent, the mission of which is to deter a nuclear strike against the United States.

Carrying a crew of 150, the *U.S.S. West Virginia* is nearly the length of two football fields, with a diameter of 42 feet. It will carry 24 submarine-launched ballistic missiles, the most advanced currently in Navy use.

This vessel will be the third in U.S. Navy history to bear West Virginia's

name.

The first was an armored cruiser launched in 1903.

The second *U.S.S. West Virginia* was christened in 1921 at Newport News, Virginia, and commissioned in 1923. A battleship in length 624 feet and in breadth more than 97 feet, she was badly damaged and sunk in the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, but was raised in 1942 and rebuilt. She went on to participate in the invasions of Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Nicknamed the "*Wee Vee*," she was present in Tokyo Bay to witness Japan's World War II surrender in August 1945.

Later, the "*Wee Vee*" was decommissioned and in 1961 was scrapped.

Today, the mast of the battleship *U.S.S. West Virginia* stands on the campus of West Virginia University.

I know that all West Virginians join me in congratulating the crew and officers of the new *U.S.S. West Virginia* upon the launching of their vessel and in wishing them every success as they add their skill and the strength of their submarine to maintaining America's peace and security on the world's oceans and waterways.

October 4, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Increased Weaponry for the War on Drugs

With other concerned West Virginians, I was pleased last month when the President, in response to the mandates of the 1988 omnibus drug bill passed by the 100th Congress, declared war on drug abuse.

I am convinced that the illicit drugs flooding our country, and the epidemic of drug abuse and the crimes attending that vice, are currently America's No. 1 national security threat.

However, I became concerned that funding proposals for the Administration's drug war did not include enough for education, abuse prevention, and rehabilitation.

Consequently, I initiated and spearheaded passage, by the Senate, of legislation that made possible a total \$9.4 billion drug-bill compromise with the Administration that substantially strengthens the drug war, specifies funding from current federal budget sources without tax increases, and provides an additional \$800 million for education, prevention, and rehabilitation programs.

I fully support the President's requests for increased law enforcement against drug traffickers and abusers, and the compromise that I helped forge will fully fund his requests,

plus an additional \$100 million for local law-enforcement grants.

Likewise, I believe that we must not only punish drug criminals, but we must also battle growing drug use and attempt to rehabilitate some of the current victims of the drug scourge. I am particularly concerned about the thousands of babies born to drug-abusing mothers. These infants enter life with crippling addictions that promise to condemn them and us to ongoing health and social problems well into the future.

In addition, we must teach our children from infancy that taking illicit drugs is not a high but a low, and not "cool" but sick and deadly.

To ensure that states like West Virginia not be neglected in the mounting drug war, I cosponsored in another bill passed by the Senate a directive to the Administration that appropriate emphasis be given, and adequate resources committed, to drug enforcement programs in rural states and smaller towns such as many in West Virginia.

This drug war is a struggle for the future of America and West Virginia, and we owe to that struggle the best resources that we can muster.

October 11, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's First National Wildlife Refuge

One of the crown jewels in West Virginia's treasury of natural wonders is the magnificent Ohio River.

A number of islands dot the West Virginia stretch of that stream -- islands rich in history, wildlife significance, and cultural importance.

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I obtained \$850,000 in federal funds to purchase thirteen of the Ohio River islands as the initial acquisitions for the "Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge" -- the first national wildlife refuge in our state.

Through the farsightedness of a number of West Virginia citizens, corporations, conservationists, and foundations, the Ohio River islands were made available for federal purchase.

The thirteen islands that will compose the core of this refuge -- Witten Towhead, Crab, Wells, Mill Creek, Grandview, Grape Island, Muskingum, Phillis, Georgetown, Baker, Williamson, Broadback, and Paden -- offer generous wetlands, floodplain forests, and riverbottoms.

These special features provide the natural habitat for an abundance of rare fish, plants, and wildlife populations.

Particularly, these islands serve as important feeding and resting areas

for migratory birds native to Eastern Canada and the Northeastern United States, among them Canada geese, mallards, black ducks, and wood ducks.

Recently, great blue heron rookeries were discovered on two of the islands. Additionally, ospreys, green-backed herons, red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons are frequent visitors to the islands.

Roughly 55 species of fish -- including large- and small-mouth bass, spotted bass, channel and flathead catfish, sauger, and freshwater drum -- find cover among the stumps, logs, and aquatic beds surrounding the islands.

Preserved on these islands will also be historical data and artifacts from America's and West Virginia's past, not the least of which will be the sites of numerous prehistoric Indian encampments.

The creation of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, as well as providing sanctuary for countless varieties of plant and animal life, will afford West Virginians and visitors to our state precious opportunities to observe and appreciate vital facets of West Virginia's natural and historical heritage -- a heritage of which future West Virginians will be proud.

October 18, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Recent Efforts to Improve Rural Health Care

Although millions of Americans now live in major metropolitan areas, many other millions of Americans still prefer life in largely rural states such as West Virginia.

I have become increasingly concerned that West Virginians and others living in mostly rural states have been receiving lower-quality services than their counterparts in large urban areas.

Such reduced quality has been especially evident in health care.

Across America, hospitals in many small towns have been forced to close because of a lack of funds. In addition, small towns and rural communities find attracting doctors to be increasingly difficult.

A health problem that is particularly evident in West Virginia is our cervical cancer death rate --the third highest in the nation.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently helped obtain approval by Congress of funding to improve health care in West Virginia and in rural areas of other states.

As a result of my efforts in winning these funds for health care, four West Virginia hospitals were each able to obtain \$50,000 awards under the Rural Health Care Transition Grants program:

Pocahontas Memorial in Marlinton, Pocahontas County; Preston Memorial in Kingwood, Preston County; Sistersville General in Tyler County; and Stonewall Jackson Memorial in Weston, Lewis County.

To recruit and place more doctors in rural communities, I also helped to secure passage of \$55 million for the National Health Services Corps, providing loans and scholarships to medical students agreeing to serve in medically underserved areas such as West Virginia.

In an effort to attack our state's cervical cancer crisis, I secured \$5 million for a cancer detection and screening initiative that will include West Virginia. Annually, large numbers of rural West Virginia women die because of inadequate or unavailable diagnosis of cervical cancer. I believe that this new program will help to reverse that tragedy.

I grew up in rural West Virginia communities. I know firsthand the health problems that confront many people in our state. These health-care measures can mean improved health services for thousands of West Virginians in rural areas and small towns.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Than \$100 Million in New Federal Funds for West Virginia in One Bill

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I was successful in winning approval of more than \$100 million in federal funding for a variety of West Virginia projects and programs in the Fiscal Year 1990 Interior Appropriation Bill recently signed into law.

The Interior bill is one of 13 appropriation bills that will determine federal spending for FY 1990.

This bill also includes nearly \$1.8 billion over a three-year period for my Clean Coal Technology Program, which I initiated primarily to develop new technologies to promote the use of West Virginia coal in environmentally acceptable ways.

Included in the funding that I obtained for West Virginia in the Interior bill are:

--\$28 million for research, staffing, and completion of a new administrative wing at the Morgantown Energy Technology Center;

--\$8.6 million for land acquisition and improvements for the New River Gorge National River in southern West Virginia;

--\$6.8 million for improvements at the Leetown National Fisheries Research Center in Jefferson County and the Bowden National Fish Hatchery in Randolph County;

--\$4.9 million to ac-

quire land and begin planning for a new National Fish and Wildlife Training Center near Harpers Ferry;

--\$2.4 million for the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Princeton, including a study of the feasibility of developing a high-tech wood manufacturing center in Mercer County;

--\$2.6 million for the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Morgantown to research gypsy-moth infestation control;

--\$1.1 million for the Forest Service Timber and Watershed Laboratory in Parsons to purchase new lab equipment for water protection and watershed management;

--\$2.5 million for construction and continued restoration at the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park;

--\$650,000 for research on timber bridge construction; and

--\$1 million to continue building and replacing West Virginia bridges, using our state's hardwoods under my Timber Bridge Initiative program.

These and other West Virginia appropriations that I secured in the Interior bill will help to increase job opportunities and promote increased growth across a broad economic spectrum in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia Takes Another Step Into the Space Age

In the midst of changes in the national and world economic scenes, I am involved in ongoing efforts to broaden West Virginia's economy--to create new jobs for West Virginians and new opportunities for West Virginia's future.

Last month, for example, another of my initiatives took shape in Morgantown.

At my request, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sent high-ranking officials to West Virginia University (WVU) for a first-time, two-day seminar with representatives of West Virginia businesses, colleges, and universities.

In response to my urgings, NASA has agreed to study and assess West Virginia's capabilities for contributing to NASA's multiple research and space-related programs.

The purpose of the WVU seminar was to enhance the possibilities for West Virginia businesses and academic institutions to compete for an increased share of those aspects of NASA's total program.

Approximately eighty West Virginia business people and academicians participated in this first seminar. These participants are currently cooperating in a two-month study, out of which they will submit a report recommending possibilities to pursue in competing for NASA contracts.

At a later date, another such NASA seminar will be convened at Marshall University in Huntington.

Among my other con-

tinuing efforts to expand West Virginia's economy are:

--the Software Valley movement, the goal of which is promoting the growth of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia;

--programs to encourage greater development of hardwood timber and wood-processing industries in West Virginia;

--my Clean Coal Technology program, which aims primarily at developing new techniques for using West Virginia coal in environmentally acceptable, more efficient ways;

--continuing services in assisting West Virginia companies to compete for Defense Department contracts; and

--long-term programs to expand our state's tourist appeal through projects such as the New River Gorge National River, improvements at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and acquisition of thirteen Ohio River islands to create West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge.

Across West Virginia, these efforts and initiatives are laying foundations for economic renewal, new jobs, and new businesses -- keystones in building a bright future for our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

An Effort to Restore Good Airline Service in West Virginia

Because of reduced and deteriorating airline service to West Virginia airports over the past decade, I am cosponsoring the Airline Reregulation Act of 1989--a bill aimed at correcting many of the shortcomings that have arisen in our country's domestic air service since the institution of airline deregulation in the late 1970's.

At that time, Congress heeded claims that airline deregulation would lead to increased competition between airlines, lower ticket fares, and better service for local airports and air travelers, and passed the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978.

In states like West Virginia, time has proved those much-touted benefits to be an illusion.

Instead, at one West Virginia airport after another, deregulation has meant less or no competition, curtailed or discontinued flights, soaring ticket prices, deteriorating service, and increased concerns about air safety.

Fortunately, in the face of losing air-passenger service at several West Virginia airports, I have been able to put money into the Essential Air Service program to maintain subsidized service into the Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton,

Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown airports.

Deregulation may also have reduced air safety, as well as air service.

Nationwide, chronic reports reveal cost-conscious airlines attempting to increase profits by reducing aircraft maintenance budgets, hiring less-experienced and lower-wage cockpit and cabin crews, and keeping old aircraft longer in service.

The federal government cannot abdicate its duty to protect the American people from safety corner-cutters in the airline industry, and the federal government should act to ensure that rural states like West Virginia not be victims of second-class air service.

The legislation that I am cosponsoring would create an Aviation Policy Board, which could regulate air routes and air fares, and also address growing safety concerns.

I hope that the Airline Reregulation Act of 1989 will set the airlines on the road toward undoing some of the damage that deregulation has fostered, and especially toward restoring quality air-passenger service, safety, and more reasonable fares for West Virginia's flying public.

November 15, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Added Funds for Corridors H and G and Other West Virginia Transportation Needs

Since pioneer days, good roads and transportation have been among West Virginia's foremost needs.

For that reason, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have recently secured funding for two vital highway construction projects in our state, and continued rail and air service to a number of communities.

In the Fiscal Year 1990 Transportation Appropriation Bill, I obtained approval of \$42 million for continued construction along Appalachian Corridors H and G--\$32 million for Corridor H construction from Elkins to Norton in Randolph County, and \$10 million for further construction of Corridor G near Williamson in Mingo County.

This \$42 million, combined with the \$31 million that I secured for Corridors H and G in the FY 1990 Energy and Water Appropriation Bill, brings to \$73 million the federal funds that I have secured for construction of those two highways in 1990.

As in 1965 when I supported legislation creating the Appalachian Corridor Highway program, I am committed to the completion of Corridor H eastward into Virginia and Corridor G into Kentucky.

Among other West Virginia highways already or mostly completed under the 1965 Appalachian Cor-

ridor Highway legislation are: Corridor D--U.S. 50 from Parkersburg to Clarksburg; Corridor E--U.S. 48 from Morgantown east through Preston County to the Maryland line; Corridor L--U.S. 19 from Braxton County to Beckley; and Corridor Q -- U.S. 460 through Mercer County.

In the Transportation Bill, I also secured funding to maintain the Essential Air Service program that subsidizes continued air passenger service into the Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown airports.

Further, I secured funds for airport surveillance radar equipment for the Wood County Airport at Parkersburg to permit safer flights at that facility.

Additionally, funding that I secured for Amtrak will allow the Cardinal passenger train, which currently offers stops in Huntington, Charleston, Montgomery, Thurmond, Prince, Hinton, and Alderson three times a week, to expand its schedule to daily service in those southern West Virginia cities and towns.

These efforts promote tourism and facilitate travel to West Virginia. If West Virginia is to prosper economically, good road, rail, and air facilities are basic ingredients toward that end.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The End of the Cold War?

In recent weeks, Americans have marveled at television images coming out of Berlin: young Berliners dancing on top of the Berlin Wall and others chipping away at it with chisels and hammers.

In fact, Americans can be proud that our national courage and perseverance are in no small part responsible for those images and for the changes sweeping over the Soviet empire in Eastern Europe.

At the end of World War II, with the Marshall plan, we rebuilt Western Europe as a bulwark against Communist expansion.

Moreover, our creation of, and commitment to, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) demonstrated that the United States was unwilling to abandon Western Europe to Soviet tyranny.

In short, American economic and military strength gave Western Europe time to develop vibrant new democratic traditions, and Eastern Europe time for democratic yearnings to develop the voice and strength that are today emerging.

As exhilarating as the changes in Eastern Europe are, however, now is the time for more than just celebration.

If America is to make the most of the currents

sweeping Eastern Europe, we need to reflect maturely and lay concrete plans so that these historic events do not sweep by us, leaving America in their wake.

Certainly, we cannot afford a wholesale stripping of our military strength, lest reactionary Stalinist elements in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe regain power and again threaten the freedom of their neighbors.

However, decreased tensions between the U.S. and the Soviets should free up some of our economic resources to reduce our national debt, accelerate research and technology development, upgrade our transportation network and waste-treatment and water facilities, and invest in new competitive ventures here and overseas, even in Eastern Europe itself.

In addition, the United States and its allies need to hammer out a consensus on our long-range goals so that we continue to present a united front toward an evolving Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

As in the past half century, freedom-loving peoples still look to America for strength and leadership, and we cannot ignore our continuing responsibilities or our current opportunities.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Successful Federal Appropriations Year for West Virginia

Upon becoming Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee one year ago, one of my top priorities was to obtain increased federal funds for projects and programs vital to West Virginia's growth and development.

From that standpoint, especially in the face of needs to cut federal spending elsewhere and reduce the budget deficit, I can say that this has been a successful year for West Virginia.

For example, I more than doubled the federal funds obtained this year for West Virginia's Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H over last year's total--\$73 million this year opposed to \$28 million last year.

This funding is particularly significant because completion of the Appalachian corridor highway system is essential to our state's economic future, and yet, the Administration had requested zero funding for these highway projects.

I was also able to secure \$75 million to rebuild the collapsed radio telescope at Green Bank in Pocahontas County, which is a national scientific asset.

In addition, I obtained continued funding for

projects to stimulate tourism at Harpers Ferry and in the New River Gorge, and I succeeded in getting funds to establish West Virginia's first National Wildlife Refuge on the Ohio River Islands near Parkersburg and Wheeling.

Further, I obtained \$21.5 million for military construction in our state and approximately \$11.7 million to build new facilities for the Fish and Wildlife Service, including funds for initial planning for a federal employee training center for the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Eastern Panhandle.

Additionally, I obtained continued federal funds for several of my other economic-development initiatives for West Virginia, including a hardwood-products industry, my timber-bridge initiative, and the Clean Coal Technology program.

Against the constraints of current federal deficit problems, I am committed to doing all that I possibly can in my role as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee to help improve West Virginia's economy and lay foundations for increased job opportunities in our state.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Drug Kingpin Death Penalty Act

Increased numbers of Americans are recognizing the illicit drug crisis as our country's greatest current problem.

Estimates of annual gross illegal drug sales are about \$110 billion -- more than America's gross agricultural income, and more than double the profits of the Fortune 500 companies combined.

Against that background, rates of drug-related crimes -- homicide, robbery, assaults, and burglaries -- are rising all across the country.

Pitiably, as many as 100,000 babies are born each year to drug-abusing mothers -- innocent babies, most of whom enter life themselves addicted, mentally retarded, physically deformed, or neurologically crippled.

Compounding the horrors of the drug crisis, intravenous drug use is now America's single largest source of AIDS virus infection. In the battle against the drug problem, without a tax increase, Congress this year passed legislation that I initiated, which earmarks \$9.4 billion for our war against the drug underworld, and which provides additional law-enforcement personnel at all levels of government, expanded drug-treatment programs,

and increased drug-education and abuse-prevention efforts.

These are important steps in stemming the growth of the drug problem.

I recently joined in cosponsoring the Drug Kingpin Death Penalty Act -- legislation that will make undeniably clear how serious our country is in its dedication to eradicating the illicit drug scourge from our land.

Because of the horrendous, even deadly, effects of the drug scourge, this bill would make available the death penalty for major drug dealers or drug traffickers, even if their crimes do not involve killing.

Current law provides a life sentence for such drug traffickers -- "drug kingpins" -- individuals found to be principal administrators, organizers, or leaders of continuing group enterprises involving the exchange of large quantities of drugs and money.

To forestall the further advance of the drug epidemic and to send a clear signal that we are truly committed to cleansing our society of drug abuse, the punishment attached to major drug racketeering and promotion should equal that meted out to other first-degree criminals.

December 13, 1989



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Tourism Workshop To Spotlight Appalachian Region

Development of West Virginia's tourism industry is one of the initiatives on which I am working to expand the state's economy and to create new job opportunities in West Virginia.

For example, as a result of language that I, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, included in the Fiscal Year 1990 Energy and Water Appropriation Bill, the Appalachian Regional Commission and Concord College in Mercer County will be sponsoring a workshop at Pipestem State Park next spring to promote tourism in West Virginia and the thirteen-state Appalachian Region.

The purpose of this workshop is to address the needs of the tourism industry in West Virginia and neighboring states; to provide a forum for sharing information on tourism development strategies, techniques, and innovations; and to review options for promoting future tourism growth in our state and throughout the region.

Tourism continues to offer West Virginia a wide range of opportunities for expanding its economic base.

For that reason, I obtained nearly \$8.7 million this year to boost recreational and tourist possibilities along the New River Gorge National River;

\$850,000 for the purchase of thirteen Ohio River islands between Wheeling and Parkersburg for the establishment of West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge; \$2.5 million for continued construction and restoration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park; and an additional \$73 million for continued construction of Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia, which will link our state highway system more adequately to some of our country's greatest population centers.

Since its settlement in pioneer days, West Virginia has been acclaimed a mecca for those who enjoy mountains and outdoor recreation. In our era, increased numbers of visitors escape regularly to our state for camping, hiking, skiing, fishing, white water rafting, and mountain climbing.

In coming years, a growing tourist industry will require more motels, restaurants, equipment centers, and other services catering to outdoor sports enthusiasts and travelers.

West Virginians can be profoundly proud of our state's natural assets. Working together, we can build upon those assets to develop a first-class tourist industry and new economic opportunities for West Virginia.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Thoughts for the New Year of 1990

The dawning of a New Year offers time for reflection on serious questions.

Currently, a pressing concern on the minds of many Americans and West Virginians is how to restore our leading economic position in the world marketplace.

Needless to say, technologies across the industrial spectrum have been revolutionized in recent years, but new manufacturing processes do not hold the complete answer to regaining America's international trading status.

More important than technology alone are certain values that in years past were inherent in American workers -- values that helped to determine the economic and industrial policies that made our domestically produced goods sought the world over.

As we celebrate the dawn of a new decade, we would do well to renew our commitment to those values that helped make West Virginia and the rest of our nation the industrial powerhouse it once was.

One of those values was patience -- particularly the willingness to postpone rewards, often for many years, while working diligently to reach far-sighted, far-reaching goals.

Again, but a couple of

generations ago, saving and reinvesting money was a national virtue. Out of such savings and reinvestments rose great industries in our country and state that were envied internationally. Out of such fiscal policies, likewise, new technologies and the retooling of old industries were made possible, enabling our domestic companies to stay ahead of their competitors at nearly every turn.

And in our schools, young Americans and young West Virginians were encouraged to strive for excellence in whatever they attempted, learning not to accept less from themselves than continued improvement -- an attitude that carried well into the workplace, the office, or any chosen profession.

Such a philosophy created national and state workforces dedicated to quality, persistence, self-discipline, and unyielding hard work.

Early pioneers in West Virginia relied on these same values to carve our state out of the wilderness and to survive against unimaginable obstacles and privations.

They are enduring values, and they will serve our nation well as we prepare to meet the global economic challenges of the 1990's.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Improvements Ahead for Amtrak Service in West Virginia

One of my continuing priorities is that of working to improve federally assisted transportation systems in West Virginia.

Such transportation systems are essential foundation blocks for our state's economic future.

As a result of my efforts on the Senate Appropriations Committee, in spite of federal budget cut-backs in recent years, Amtrak has maintained regular tri-weekly service of the Cardinal passenger train through southern West Virginia.

On a Chicago-to-Washington route, the Cardinal makes regular stops, going both east and west, in Huntington, Charleston, Montgomery, Thurmond, Prince, Hinton, Alderson, and White Sulphur Springs.

Believing in the importance of this vital passenger rail service to West Virginia, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I won a commitment this past year from Amtrak to use the \$85 million capital improvement funds that I included in the Fiscal Year 1990 Transportation Appropriation Bill to upgrade its service by purchasing new equipment and by expanding the Cardinal to a daily West Virginia schedule in the future.

Already, large numbers of business and leisure travelers have discovered the Cardinal to be an

efficient and comfortable means of traveling into and through West Virginia.

The addition of new equipment--in this instance, "Viewliner" sleeper cars--and daily service should assure increased passenger use of Amtrak through West Virginia and will be a decided asset in West Virginia's appeal to new businesses and industries.

Likewise, as the development of the New River Gorge National River park project takes shape, tourists will find Amtrak an attractive method of reaching and traveling through this scenic wonder.

In addition to these planned improvements to Amtrak service in West Virginia, in 1989 I added another \$73 million in construction funds for Appalachian corridor highways G and H, and secured federal funds to continue air passenger service into the Beckley, Bluefield/Princeton, Elkins, Clarksburg/Fairmont, and Morgantown airports.

Good transportation is crucial to economic growth and increased tourism and job opportunities.

These efforts to maintain, expand, and improve transportation in West Virginia will be vital in promoting such growth and opportunities for the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Rebuilding the Foundations

In West Virginia and across the country, signs of wear on such facilities as dams, highways, bridges, water and sewer systems, city streets, barge locks, and other important public facilities are becoming commonplace.

Thousands of miles of the national Interstate Highway System, begun in the 1950's, need repair and upgrading.

Roughly half of the nation's more than 500,000 road and highway bridges are classified as unsafe or obsolete.

An estimated one-fifth of America's dams and reservoirs are reportedly in need of safety improvements.

In large cities and small towns alike, water and sewer systems are breaking down or proving inadequate to meet today's demands.

Some estimates set the national cost of rebuilding our public services at several trillion dollars.

Before the crumbling of these public works becomes a national crisis, we need to undertake the necessary reconstruction and replacement required to keep our country and state running smoothly and efficiently.

For that reason, one of my priorities for West Virginia has been to appropriate federal monies to rebuild certain outmoded or decaying public projects.

For example, I have helped to secure funds to replace a number of locks and dams on the Ohio River, including current work to replace the

Gallipolis locks and dam near Point Pleasant, which is estimated to cost \$336 million; to rebuild the Winfield locks and dam on the Kanawha in Putnam County, estimated at \$195 million; and to rebuild Locks 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River north of Morgantown, estimated at \$256.8 million.

Additionally, I have obtained approximately \$2 million to replace or rehabilitate roughly 60 primarily rural bridges in West Virginia, using native hardwoods and modern timber design, processing, and construction.

Moreover, I helped to obtain funds to replace the Wheeling-Steubenville bridge, the Marietta-Williamstown bridge near Parkersburg, and the Sixth Street bridge in Huntington.

Within the last two years, I have also been able to add more than \$100 million in funding for Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia. Although this is new construction, these roads will provide modern alternates to currently outmoded routes.

Further, I have assisted scores of communities in our state to obtain funds to upgrade, expand, or modernize existing public water and sewerage systems.

As we move into the 1990's and face the dawning of the twenty-first century, repairing or replacing our public support systems will become increasingly vital to America's and West Virginia's economic futures.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

For the Future of Coal

Coal remains America's most abundant energy source and a pillar of West Virginia's economic future.

For example, while the United States is currently importing nearly 50 percent of the oil that it uses, and proven U.S. natural gas supplies are projected to last only about 35 more years, recoverable U.S. coal deposits are estimated to be sufficient for another three centuries.

However, given growing concerns about the environment and increased needs for the more efficient use of all energy resources, the simple burning of raw coal is no longer the most practical course of action.

For that reason, I established the Clean Coal Technology Program, for which I have obtained nearly \$2.8 billion in federal appropriations through 1992 to develop and demonstrate ways to use coal in a more environmentally acceptable manner.

The appropriations that I have secured -- which are to be matched by private-sector funding -- will allow progress in efforts that are key to the future of West Virginia's coal industry by encouraging the development of new technologies for using our state's (and America's) most available energy

resource cleanly and efficiently.

In addition to my Clean Coal Technology Program, I am also working on a number of other fronts to advance the coal industry in West Virginia. For instance, last year I added \$4 million to the Interior Appropriation Bill to complete a wing of the Morgantown Energy Technology Center, plus another \$15 million to maintain research and employment levels there; \$2.5 million for research at West Virginia University (WVU) into the mining-health respirable dust problem; and \$1.5 million for the National Mine Land Reclamation Center at WVU.

Thousands of West Virginians and many West Virginia communities depend on coal for their livelihoods. If coal is to continue as a vibrant player in our current and future economies, however, advanced technologies must be developed and applied that will help coal to retain its energy appeal.

My Clean Coal Technology Program, in tandem with related coal research programs, will enable coal to fulfill its economic and energy potential in generations to come.

January 17, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Continuing Education Crisis

Good schools and a good education are the finest gifts that one generation can give its children and the finest investments that we can make in West Virginia's future.

Unfortunately, in spite of recent efforts to improve our schools, results have not been universally satisfying.

For instance, a recent study issued by the U.S. Secretary of Education states that in 1988 one out of seven U.S. 17-year-olds had failed to reach an intermediate reading level, and that 9-year-olds could not read as well as their 1980 counterparts.

Such statistics are alarming enough in themselves. But they also portend a significant adverse impact on our future economic health.

A recent Labor Department report estimates that illiteracy costs America \$225 billion annually in lost productivity, unrealized tax revenues, welfare and unemployment payments, and law enforcement and prison expenses.

Jobs are also at stake.

According to another recent study, more than half of the new jobs created between now and the year 2000 will require some education beyond high school.

Further, by the year 2000, roughly one-third of all U.S. jobs will require a college degree.

I am a committed believer in the importance of a good education as essential to winning good jobs, achieving career success, and being able to reach one's goals in life.

An educated citizenry is also a key to our nation's and West Virginia's economic progress.

In that belief, beginning in 1969, from a private trust that I established, I have presented U.S. Savings Bonds to approximately 5,500 graduating valedictorians of West Virginia public, parochial, and private schools, and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

In addition, 130 West Virginia students planning to attend college have received scholarships under the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program that Congress established under my legislation in 1985. Each year, this program provides \$1,500 college stipends to students throughout the nation who have excelled in high school academics.

The quality of education that our sons and daughters receive will help to determine the quality of their futures.

Let us work to ensure that our children have available to them the best educational opportunities possible to prepare them for the challenges of the twenty-first century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Balanced Approach to a Cleaner Environment

Currently, the Senate is debating legislation to promote cleaner air.

I support that goal. Improving the quality of the air on which we and future generations depend is our civic responsibility.

As clean air programs are considered, however, we must keep in mind that far more is involved than just establishing more rigid air-quality controls.

Efforts to improve the environment must also be balanced with reasonable economic and energy policies, as well.

Unfortunately, many of the clean-air proposals currently being advanced pit various regions of the country against one another, and one industry against another, and are inadequate, unworkable, and unfair.

The acid-rain control portion of the legislation pending before the Senate threatens the high-sulfur coal industry; could seriously disrupt the economies of many Northern West Virginia coal-producing communities, where as many as one of every four jobs is coal-mining related; and would increase electric bills by billions of dollars annually, thus pricing many American industries and products out of world markets.

Additionally, crippling prohibitions on coal

would discourage the use of our country's most abundant, dependable energy source, rendering us increasingly addicted to foreign energy supplies.

Fortunately, an environmentally sound, energy-secure alternative exists to the draconian proposals advanced so often to promote clean air and reduce atmospheric pollution.

That alternative is the continued development of clean coal technologies.

Currently, as a result of the Clean Coal Technology Program that I established and for which I have secured a total of nearly \$2.8 billion in federal funds through 1992 to promote new technologies that use coal in an environmentally acceptable and economical manner are coming on line.

Time and incentives are now needed to allow these new clean coal technologies to be harnessed commercially so that they can reach their full potential in producing cleaner air and a more energy-secure, expanding economy.

Through clean coal technologies, we can enjoy both cleaner air and economic stability, and toward those mutual goals our clean air policies and controls should aim.

January 31, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Roles for National Guard and Reserves

The primary lesson taught by the Second World War was the price of military weakness and unpreparedness.

Fortunately, when the aggressive intents of the Soviet Union became apparent at the end of that war, the continued strength of America's Armed Forces preserved the peace and liberty of millions of people.

Currently, the easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union coupled with rising democracy in Eastern Europe points toward a hopeful future.

The euphoria of peace and improved East-West relations should not, however, blind us to the lessons of the past.

As we adjust to an era of eased tensions, NATO-Warsaw Pact negotiations should allow us to reduce our conventional force strength in Europe and here at home, but those reductions must be balanced against potential future national security needs.

The responsibilities and functions of such reduced active forces should not, for example, be simply ignored, but rather they should be transferred to Reserve and National Guard units stationed here at home. The security of our country in times of reduced threat must

be cared for, and the training and preparedness of conventional forces experienced and skilled in modern technology and tactics cannot be foresaken.

For those purposes, the Reserves and National Guard are ideally suited.

Throughout my career in Congress, one of my priorities has been to work for the construction, expansion, and maintenance of up-to-date Reserve and National Guard facilities throughout West Virginia. In recent years, I have secured nearly \$125 million in federal funds for these facilities.

Currently, across our state, thousands of West Virginians are participating regularly in military and defense training at local armories and reserve centers.

That training is an investment in America's continued peace and security.

As I stated recently when I was presented the Reserve Officers Association's "Minute Man of the Year Award" in Washington, we can rejoice that the Iron Curtain is lifting in Eastern Europe, but we must likewise keep our Reserves and National Guard strong so that we can ensure America's liberty and security should new threats to peace and international stability arise in the years ahead.

February 7, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The President's Budget and West Virginia

President Bush recently sent to Capitol Hill his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1991.

On the positive side, the President's budget contains several items of benefit to West Virginia, but, unfortunately, it shortchanges or eliminates funds for some other programs vital to our state.

Encouragingly, \$50 million is included in this proposed budget for reauthorizing and funding the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), of which \$30 million is targeted for ARC highways.

For eight years, proposed administration budgets attempted again and again to zero out ARC by not funding it. During that period, the Senate and House appropriations committees kept ARC alive. Last year, for example, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I succeeded in adding \$73 million in federal appropriations for continued construction of Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia.

Although the President's proposal is a welcome gesture of support for ARC, I shall again be seeking a higher level of funding this year for further construction of Corridors G and H, highways whose completion is vital to West Virginia's economic future and

development.

Of additional interest to our state, the proposed budget requests continued funding for several important flood-control and navigation projects in West Virginia, including \$46.3 million for the Gallipolis Locks and Dam, \$16.2 million for Winfield Lock and Dam, and \$28.3 million for the Point Marion Lock and Dam.

I am also pleased that the Administration's budget again calls for \$8.6 million in funding for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program.

Unfortunately, the President is calling for the elimination of funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the highway demonstration program, and Amtrak, and for deep cuts in a number of other programs, including Essential Air Service subsidies on which several airports in West Virginia depend.

Additionally, the proposed budget funds coal research at less than half of the level appropriated by Congress last year.

To reduce federal deficits, constraints must be put on spending. But many of the programs that the President has proposed to be reduced or eliminated are imperative to our state's future, and I shall do my best to protect and enhance programs so important to West Virginians.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Strengthening Our Schools

Nations whose people are well educated tend to be free, strong, stable, prosperous, and capable of defending and preserving their ways of life.

Indeed, historians assert that America's rise as a world economic power was largely a dividend of having, at that time, the world's best educated workforce.

I strongly believe in the value and necessity of acquiring the best education and training that a person can attain.

Throughout my public career, I have worked to improve the quality of schools for the children and young people of West Virginia.

Currently, the United States ranks 14th among 16 industrialized nations for public spending for grades K-12, with Japan, West Germany, Britain, Canada, Italy, and France, to name a few, all spending more than we do on elementary and secondary education.

In the decades ahead, to compete successfully in the world marketplace, the workforce of any nation will need a better quality of education than ever before.

Increased skills in computers, foreign languages, mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, and numerous other disciplines will be required of those men and women, states, and countries hop-

ing to make economic gains in the future.

Fortunately, we are becoming increasingly concerned about improving the quality of education in America.

Recently, for example, the Senate passed, with my support, The Educational Excellence Act, aimed at improving our national educational system.

In addition, I am cosponsoring The Excellence in Math, Science, and Engineering Education Act, whose purpose is to increase proficiency in those studies in our schools.

Likewise, I have joined in cosponsoring legislation to launch a national study of the merits of lengthening the school day and school year, which currently runs 180 days in the United States, but 243 days in Japan, 215 in Italy, 191 in Canada, and 185 in France.

Our children and young people are West Virginia's most precious resources.

To ensure that they will continue to enjoy the standard of living that they deserve, and that our country continues to be strong, free, and prosperous, let us commit ourselves to equipping the schools of America and the schools of West Virginia to meet the challenges that will face us in the 21st century.

February 21, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Advancing into West Virginia's Hardwood-Products Future

One of my top priorities is that of working to create new economic and job opportunities in West Virginia.

Toward that goal, I am spearheading an initiative to expand West Virginia's active role in hardwoods manufacturing.

Roughly a century ago, West Virginia was a center of massive timbering operations. West Virginia trees were shipped out of state to build homes across the country, and to produce high-quality furniture and other wood products in distant factories.

Unfortunately, during that period, few such factories, if any, were located in West Virginia.

Today, West Virginia's forests still boast some of the world's finest hardwood timber.

Realizing the great potential that this renewable resource offers West Virginia, I have worked to lay foundations for an advanced hardwood-products manufacturing industry in West Virginia.

In the past, I have obtained federal funds to build forestry sciences laboratories at Morgantown and near Princeton in Mercer County -- laboratories to promote and foster the growth of sturdy, healthy trees in West Virginia's forests.

On the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have recently obtained a total of \$1.9 million in federal funds to establish and operate the Advanced

Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center near Princeton to stimulate manufacturing opportunities for finished wood products.

Recently, two feasibility studies that I had requested by Concord College and Marshall University recommended the establishment of two high-tech, wood-products facilities -- a flexible- or computerized-manufacturing unit and a state-of-the-art training center -- on land owned by the U.S. Forestry Service adjacent to the Advanced Hardwood Processing and Technical Resource Center in Mercer County.

These two proposed facilities would help bridge the gap between the hardwood-products industry's current manufacturing practices and developing technologies, and provide on-site manufacturing experience and training for West Virginia woodworkers on the most advanced wood-products manufacturing equipment available.

My vision in this ongoing effort is to develop in West Virginia the trained workforce and potential for a growing new hardwood-processing industry -- an industry that would manufacture furniture, build homes, and create new products from West Virginia hardwoods, and, at the same time, provide jobs for talented, hardworking West Virginians for decades to come.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Working to Promote Jobs and Economic Growth in West Virginia

In coming months, West Virginia will be the site of three conferences focusing on enterprises that I am pursuing to create new jobs in our state.

Software Valley Conference

On April 11-12, the Software Valley movement in West Virginia--a non-profit initiative that I helped launch to promote research, education, and the development of a computer software industry and related high-technology businesses in West Virginia--will hold its ninth statewide conference at the Civic Center in Charleston. To date, Software Valley has established chapters in every section of West Virginia, and boasts approximately 3,500 members.

The theme of this conference will be "Information Management Opportunities for West Virginia: 1990's and Beyond." It will feature speakers from major aerospace corporations, the Department of Defense, and NASA. Anyone wishing to attend this conference should contact Software Valley headquarters in Morgantown (Phone: 296-0110).

Tourism Conference

On May 1, 2, and 3, under the sponsorship of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Concord College, and West Virginia University, a "Regional Workshop on Tourism Development" will be conducted at Pipestem Resort State Park

near Hinton. At my initiation as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, ARC is underwriting this workshop and the development of a strategy to encourage tourism in Appalachia, and in West Virginia in particular.

I have long been aware of West Virginia's tourism potential, and I am actively working to promote tourism in our state through the development of the New River National River project, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, the completion of Appalachian Corridor Highways, and other efforts across our state. Those wishing to take part in the Pipestem workshop should contact Concord College for registration information and program details (Phone: 384-5317).

Hardwood Industry Conference

On May 17, 18, and 19--again at the Charleston Civic Center--a "Hardwood Industry in the '90's" conference will be held. One of my top priorities for West Virginia is the development of a thriving hardwood products industry. Speakers from the federal, private, and academic sectors will present the latest information relevant to wood-products manufacturing and world marketing. Those interested in the hardwood industry conference should contact the Institute for Trade Development at Marshall University in Huntington (Phone: 696-6271).



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing New Federal Facilities And Jobs to West Virginia

Recently, I won the selection of West Virginia for three proposed federal facilities that have the potential to bring thousands of new jobs and millions of federal dollars into our state.

First, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) -- after surveying West Virginia at my request -- has tentatively selected Clarksburg for the relocation of its renowned Identification Division.

With an annual estimated payroll of \$75 million, this new FBI facility would employ approximately 2,500 persons, with an estimated eighty percent of those being West Virginians hired locally.

This project is contingent upon the outcome of the FBI's feasibility study and upon my ability to squeeze appropriations for the move out of a tightly restricted federal budget.

Second, at my urging, the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has announced plans to build a world-class laboratory for occupational safety and health in West Virginia. I have already obtained the necessary appropriations for preliminary work on this project, which is to be located in Morgantown.

This new 150,000 square-foot facility will cost an estimated \$25-\$30 million to build and will

employ more than 300 new personnel when completed in 1995.

Third, also at my urging, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons has selected West Virginia as the site for a new 750-inmate medium-security federal prison. This facility will cost an estimated \$50 million to build and will employ about 250 people -- 60 percent of whom would be hired locally -- with an estimated annual payroll of \$8-\$10 million.

The Bureau of Prisons has selected Beckley as the site for this prison, which could be completed by the end of 1992. I have already obtained the necessary appropriations in the federal prison budget for this project to go forward, subject to the completion of technical and environmental studies.

This federal prison would not house hard-core, violent criminals and has no connection with the much-discussed proposal to relocate the District of Columbia's prison from Lorton, Virginia, to West Virginia.

Although federal budget constraints are very severe, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall do all that I can to secure the necessary funds to build these new federal facilities in West Virginia.

March 14, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Progress Report on the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank

In November 1988, the National Radio Telescope at Green Bank, Pocahontas County, collapsed.

Built originally at a cost of roughly \$850,000 in the early 1960's, the aging but world-famous old radio telescope was reduced to a 600-ton jumble of twisted steel girders in a matter of seconds.

Understandably, the collapse brought a cry of dismay from the nation's scientific community, and there arose a debate about whether or not to replace the giant instrument. I insisted that the fallen telescope had to be replaced in West Virginia, and officials of the National Science Foundation (NSF) came around to my position and agreed to build a new radio telescope in West Virginia.

Last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I succeeded in adding \$75 million to an appropriation bill to construct the new, state-of-the-art radio telescope at Green Bank in Pocahontas County.

Recently, I received a progress report from NSF indicating that 22 firms have shown interest in submitting bids for the project.

The official bidding process is scheduled to begin in early June, with awarding of the construction contract to be announced early in 1991.

Subsequently, site preparation and excavation for the new radio telescope should take place in the summer or fall of 1991.

In 1992, construction of the radio telescope antenna would begin, with completion and the final installation and testing of related instruments and equipment targeted for 1994.

Official operation of the new, technologically advanced National Radio Telescope is anticipated to begin in 1995.

In the decades ahead, the United States will continue to be a pioneer on mankind's advancing frontier into outer space. Currently, important future space exploration missions are being planned and projected.

By dint of its state-of-the-art quality, the new National Radio Telescope at Green Bank not only will keep West Virginia in the front ranks of radio-telescope technology but also will be a brilliant star in our state's scientific future.

March 21, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Completing the Appalachian Corridor Highways

In 1965, in legislation that I cosponsored creating the Appalachian Regional Commission, the federal government committed itself to building a system of modern, four-lane highways in West Virginia and twelve other Appalachian states.

That legislation was one of the most important federal laws passed in West Virginia's transportation history.

Today, the Appalachian corridor highway system is a vital part of West Virginia's total highway mileage. Currently, approximately 266 miles of the originally planned Appalachian corridors in West Virginia have been completed or are under construction, with roughly 145 miles of Appalachian corridor highways left to be constructed in our state.

Last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I secured \$73 million for construction along Corridor H in Randolph County and Corridor G in Mingo County, which are among the final Appalachian corridor highway miles left to be completed in West Virginia.

Completion of the Appalachian corridor highway system in West Virginia is one of my top

priorities. That is why I was so disappointed when the Administration recently announced a proposal to shift the bulk of federally subsidized highway construction from the federal government to the states.

That proposal is flawed.

First, it ignores the unique needs of economically strapped rural states such as West Virginia that require federal assistance to build highways adequate to meet national highway-quality standards.

Second, it fails to meet a 25-year-old commitment to finish the Appalachian corridor highway system to help spur economic growth and development in a chronically depressed, job-hungry, rural region of America.

Any national transportation policy that does not include the completion of the Appalachian corridor highway system as an essential element of the country's overall highway network is shortsighted, inequitable, and unrealistic.

I will continue to do whatever I can to secure the federal dollars needed to build the remaining Appalachian corridor highway miles so vital to West Virginia's future economic growth.

March 28, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Funding West Virginia's War Against Illegal Drugs

Consistently, West Virginia records the nation's lowest annual crime rate.

That does not mean, however, that our state is immune from crime. Of great concern to me are periodic reports of increased drug-trafficking arrests from across West Virginia.

I am convinced that the illicit drugs flooding our country, and the epidemic of drug abuse and the crimes attending that vice, are the most serious problems facing America today.

Consequently, last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I initiated and spearheaded passage of legislation that added \$1.1 billion in funding to the Administration's anti-drug package for increased law enforcement, education, prevention, and treatment.

I also included in the anti-drug appropriation increased funding for federal prison construction. As a result of the funding I provided, a new 750-inmate medium security federal prison to be built in Raleigh County is in the planning stages.

Further, to ensure that states like West Virginia not be neglected in the war against drugs, I cosponsored a directive to the Administration that appropriate emphasis be given, and adequate resources committed, to drug-enforcement pro-

grams in rural states and smaller towns such as many in West Virginia.

As a result of these efforts, West Virginia this year will receive \$3.6 million in federal anti-drug funds -- an increase of 194 percent over the previous year's funding -- for local drug enforcement efforts.

In accordance with the provisions of my legislation, West Virginia is to use these Justice Department funds to enhance and improve its narcotics task-force programs, drug law-enforcement efforts, community crime-watch programs, crime-analysis techniques, street-sales crackdowns, and regional jail and correctional facilities.

Drug abuse and illegal drug use are not "victimless crimes," as some have asserted. Illegal drug trafficking promotes other crimes to help users obtain money to support their habits -- burglaries, robberies, theft, murder, and prostitution, among others. More tragically, thousands of innocent babies -- many themselves drug-dependent or drug-scarred at birth -- are being born annually to drug-abusing mothers.

West Virginia enjoys a heritage of robust family life and ingrained moral strength. I shall continue doing whatever I can to ensure that the drug menace does not erode that enviable heritage.

April 4, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

The Environment And West Virginia's Coal Miners

The Senate recently passed the Clean Air Amendments Act of 1989, the most comprehensive clean air legislation in our nation's history.

I had hoped to vote for this legislation, but in the end I voted against it, because I cannot support legislation that could destroy the livelihoods of many hundreds of West Virginia coal miners, and that could spell economic ruin to many communities in our state.

Recognizing from the outset the crucial impact that this bill could have on West Virginia's economy and its coal industry, I led a bipartisan coalition of Appalachian and Midwestern coal-state Senators in an effort to develop a plan to lessen the adverse impact of this legislation.

Some of the provisions sought by our coalition were incorporated into the bill that the Senate passed -- including clean-coal incentives.

However, I was especially concerned about the unfair burden that the bill will impose on coal miners, many of them West Virginians. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 3,000 to 5,000 high-sulfur coal miners will be thrown out of work by 1995 as a result of this legislation.

Therefore, I offered

an amendment that would have provided a portion of their salary and benefits for up to three years to coal miners who lose their jobs as a direct result of enactment of this legislation, plus job-training benefits.

My amendment would also have provided an extra 52 weeks of unemployment benefits, plus additional job training, for non-miners who lose their jobs as a result of this legislation. Unfortunately, on a 49-50 vote, with heavy pressure against it from the Administration and the joint Senate leadership, my amendment was defeated.

Prior to that vote, I had volunteered to go even further and offer an amendment that would have provided the same benefits -- the same 70-60-50 percentage of their compensation for up to three years, with a cap on the total amount that could be spent -- to workers in all industries, coal and non-coal alike, displaced by the clean air bill. However, the Senate leadership would not support that proposal either.

But the struggle over this clean air legislation is not finished. I can only hope that when this bill comes back to the Senate from the House and conference committee, it will be an improved bill that I can support.

April 11, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Software Valley Businesses Awarded Nearly \$60 Million in Contracts

Recently, approximately 300 participants in the West Virginia Software Valley movement assembled in Charleston to attend the Software Valley IX Conference.

One of my goals in launching the Software Valley movement in 1985 was to broaden our state's economic base and help West Virginia companies compete more successfully for high-tech contracts and subcontracts.

That goal is being realized.

In recent months, various Software Valley member enterprises in West Virginia have been awarded contracts--federal and private together--worth a potential total value of nearly \$60 million.

Included in that sum are a \$15 million, five-year award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to a firm currently relocating its headquarters to the Eastern Panhandle, with subcontracts going to seven other widely distributed West Virginia companies; and an award that could total up to \$42 million from the Internal Revenue Service to a firm planning to open a data-processing facility in Raleigh County that ultimately projects employing 320 people.

In the five years since its inception, Software Valley has been helping to create a positive environment in West Virginia for high-tech research and

development.

Along with my other efforts to bring new jobs and new federal facilities to West Virginia--such as the FBI Identification Division, tentatively scheduled for the Clarksburg-Fairmont area; the Centers for Disease Control Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory, to be located in Morgantown; and the federal prison being located at Beckley--we are laying foundations that promise to make important contributions to West Virginia's future.

In assessing Software Valley's efforts and prospects, an official of the U.S. Department of Commerce has said, "West Virginia is a living laboratory environment for advanced software and factory automation applications and development, a model state on a containable scale with very accessible key players and strategic partners."

Across our state, Software Valley participants are putting increasing numbers of West Virginians on the cutting edge of technology development and progress.

As the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall continue to do all that I can to promote and support advanced-technology programs that will mean new jobs and a growing economy in our state.

April 18, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting Math and Science In West Virginia

Recently, I joined in sponsoring a new bill in the Senate--the "Excellence in Math, Science, and Engineering Education Act of 1990"--that is aimed at making American students first in the world in engineering, math, and science achievement by the year 2000.

For West Virginia, this bill has the potential to bring a new infusion of funds for math and science education.

Throughout most of the 20th century, the United States was the world leader in developing new technologies.

In recent years, however, much American technology has been adopted and improved by our foreign trade competitors, and we have lost markets for our goods and products worldwide.

To recapture technological and manufacturing leadership, we must have a growing pool of men and women capable of creating new and improved products and capable of bringing those products on to the market.

Unfortunately, however, experts predict that by the year 2020, the United States will suffer a shortfall of roughly 560,000 scientists, engineers, and related technicians.

In part, that shortfall will result from inade-

quate, underfunded educational programs that are failing the young people of West Virginia and our country in science, math, and engineering.

The major purposes of this bill are to reverse our national decline in technological leadership and to encourage more young Americans to pursue scientific and technological careers.

Besides establishing a national agency to assist local governments and educators to improve elementary and secondary schools in West Virginia and her sister states, this legislation would also provide for grants to upgrade college science departments, for which West Virginia colleges and universities could qualify.

This education act further includes incentives for students to enter the teaching field, and it encourages them to seek careers in advanced science and technology.

The future will offer almost unlimited opportunities for those persons who are educated and trained in the sciences and technology.

Through this bill and other efforts, I am working to help ensure that West Virginia plays an important role in the scientific and technological decades ahead.

April 25, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Timber Bridges Planned for West Virginia

The development of a world-class hardwood industry in West Virginia continues to be one of my top priorities.

Among my efforts to promote West Virginia hardwoods, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am seeking to expand the Timber Bridge Initiative that I launched two years ago.

Across our country, experts estimate that roughly 238,000 deficient, obsolete, and unsafe bridges need to be replaced. In West Virginia, 61 percent of the 6,513 bridges in the federal highway inventory are classified as deficient and obsolete.

Conventional concrete and steel bridges have proved to be vulnerable to the sometimes rapid, corrosive, and rusting effects of storms, freezing temperatures, salt treatment, and heavy use.

With a life expectancy more than three times that of concrete and steel, however, technologically treated hardwood timbers could be used to replace as much as 80 percent of these dangerous or obsolete bridges.

To help create a growing market for West Virginia hardwood products in bridge replacement, over the past two years I have secured approximately \$6.6

million in federal appropriations for timber bridge demonstration projects, research and development, and technical information programs.

In the first year of this program, I obtained funding to build 33 timber bridges in West Virginia.

This year, preliminary work will begin on at least 20 more of these timber bridges in West Virginia, bringing the number of bridges to be built in our state under my initiative to more than 50 out of a total of approximately 150 demonstration timber bridges to be built nationally.

Thus far, the use of hardwood-timber for construction of these bridges has saved more than \$4 million over the cost of using concrete and steel.

Additionally, I have proposed the building of a major job-training center for hardwood processing and a high-tech manufacturing center in Mercer County.

These centers would serve as the nucleus for an expanding hardwood industry throughout our state and region. The development of a hardwood-products industry in our state promises to give West Virginia a more stable and prosperous economy, and to offer growing job opportunities for West Virginians in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New National Training Center For West Virginia

Last year, I obtained \$4.9 million in federal appropriations to establish a National Fish and Wildlife Service Training Center in West Virginia.

When completed, this center will be another star in West Virginia's growing roster of major federal facilities that I am working to obtain. Already on the drawing board at this time are a new medium-security federal prison for Beckley, the FBI Identification Division for Clarksburg, and a Centers for Disease Control Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory for Morgantown.

The primary function of the Fish and Wildlife facility--which is to be located near Harpers Ferry in Jefferson County--will be to provide a coordinated, efficient training program for federal and other fish and wildlife professionals from all across the country.

The Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to begin planning and design work on the project in 1991, and complete construction of this facility by fall 1994.

This training center will be a state-of-the-art facility that will house classrooms, laboratories, exhibits, field-site educational resources, and a visi-

tor center, all in one complex.

Already West Virginia enjoys a generous population of wildlife and an increased appreciation for its wilderness heritage among campers and outdoors adventurers.

Having the primary center for Fish and Wildlife Service training in Jefferson County will further enhance West Virginia's image as an exciting wilderness mecca for tourists.

In a related effort, last year I obtained \$850,000 to acquire 13 Ohio River islands, which will be part of West Virginia's first National Wildlife Refuge. At my urging, the Fish and Wildlife Service has requested another \$1.25 million to acquire additional Ohio River islands to enlarge the refuge.

My top priority is to do all that I can to create new jobs and economic opportunities in West Virginia.

The new Fish and Wildlife Service Training Center in Jefferson County and the acquisition of the Ohio River islands as a National Wildlife Refuge promise to bring new jobs, more visitors, and more federal and private dollars into West Virginia.

May 9, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Faster, Fairer Way To Complete the ARC Highway System

The completion of West Virginia's Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) corridor highway system is essential to the economic future and the creation of new job opportunities in our state.

In the past two years, through the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added more than \$100 million in federal funds for continuing construction on Corridors G and H -- nearly \$30 million in 1988 and \$73 million in 1989.

In spite of the construction progress that those appropriations will afford on these highway routes, more rapid federal funding is needed to push these projects forward in order that they may reach earlier completion and thus contribute more quickly to improving West Virginia's economy.

Toward that goal, in a White House meeting just a few days ago, I urged the President to include the Appalachian regional highway system in the upcoming national highway bill, thus making West Virginia's Appalachian corridors eligible for federal highway funds.

I also urged the President to use the unspent

balance that will accrue over the next two years in the national Highway Trust Fund to finance completion of the 938-mile, 13-state Appalachian regional highway system, which includes 143.6 miles remaining to be built in West Virginia. This proposal builds on ARC legislation offered by Senator Rockefeller last year and cosponsored by me.

One more advantage of my proposal for speeded funding of West Virginia's Appalachian corridor construction in this era of federal budget constraints is that it would not require increased taxes, and it would not divert federal funding from other needed highway projects, such as bridge repair and replacement.

The Appalachian corridor highway system in West Virginia promises to be an important asset to America's regional and national transportation system, as well as to the people of our state. The Federal government now has an opportunity to complete these highways more rapidly and to realize an earlier economic and transportation harvest of the benefits that they will bring to our national economy.

May 16, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Market Opens For West Virginia Exports

While the revolutionary democratic changes taking place in Eastern Europe are being applauded by all freedom-loving West Virginians, the new openness in the former Soviet satellite states promises another advantage for enterprising business people and manufacturers in our state.

Last year, with my support, Congress passed the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act, for which I voted. The goal of this legislation is to stimulate private-sector investment in the Eastern European nations of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Bulgaria, and Romania. This new market presents an opportunity for a major expansion by American businesses, including West Virginia enterprises.

The opening of Eastern Europe to Western trade and commerce is a development for which the United States has been laboring for more than four decades. However, if U.S. companies do not take advantage of this opportunity, they could find themselves shut out of this vast new market by their overseas rivals.

To help U.S. firms to penetrate Eastern Europe, the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act mandated the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish a new Eastern

European Business Information Center.

The goal of the Business Center is to generate American business possibilities in Eastern Europe by responding to inquiries from small- and medium-sized companies interested in exporting or investments; firms with questions about financing, export licensing, or trade-promotion opportunities; and organizations and individuals wanting to lend various types of assistance to the region.

Exporting has long been an important avenue by which a number of West Virginia companies and corporations have enlarged their world market share.

West Virginia boasts a number of traditional industries--coal, timber products, steel, and chemicals, for example--as well as increasing numbers of high-tech enterprises involved in the Software Valley movement, all offering superior-quality goods and services that would be welcome in Eastern Europe.

Any West Virginians wanting information on trade opportunities or procedures should contact: Eastern European Business Information Center; Room 6043; U.S. Department of Commerce; 14th and Constitution, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone number: (202) 377-2645; Fax number: (202) 377-4473.

May 23, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia's 1990 Byrd Scholars

Again this year, a number of academically outstanding West Virginia high school seniors are the recipients of a scholastic award that I initiated to reward notable academic performance and to encourage the pursuit of excellence in education.

Based on legislation that I authored in the U.S. Senate in 1985, but which was named in my honor at the suggestion of Republican Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska, national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships this year will be awarded to another 41 graduating West Virginia high school students, bringing to 171 the number from our state thus far so honored.

On the basis of academic achievement and scholastic merit, these "Byrd Scholars" were selected to receive \$1,500 first-year college scholarships by the State Department of Education, on the

recommendation of high schools across West Virginia.

Under the provisions of my legislation, these national scholarships are allotted for each state according to student population.

Especially in this era of increased international technological and trade competition, we in West Virginia and across our country need to encourage talented young men and women to pursue advanced education and training.

The young West Virginians winning this year's Byrd Scholarships are exceptional, and they deserve our recognition.

Indeed, these students represent an important resource for, and investment in, West Virginia's future, and I am especially gratified to have had a role in advancing their educations and encouraging them toward the fulfillment of their own promise.

May 30, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Building the Tourism Industry In West Virginia

Over the years, West Virginia's coal-rich hills and hollows have contributed to our state's economic prosperity.

Today, as we search for ways to broaden and diversify West Virginia's economy, those rugged hills and hollows may hold the promise of a new economic bounty: tourism.

Recently, as a result of my efforts to promote tourism in West Virginia, representatives from the 13-state Appalachian Region met at Pipestem State Park in Mercer County for a three-day workshop on tourism development.

Hosted by Concord College and the Appalachian Regional Commission, the purpose of this workshop was to foster tourism throughout the Appalachian area.

During this workshop, I encouraged the Appalachian Regional Commission to establish an Appalachian Tourism Development Center at Concord College, to be coordinated with West Virginia University.

Although this center would serve the entire Appalachian region, its location in West Virginia would enhance other efforts on

which I am currently working to promote tourism in our state.

Toward that goal, last year I obtained nearly \$8.7 million to develop recreational and tourism possibilities along the New River Gorge National River; \$850,000 for the purchase of thirteen Ohio River islands for the establishment of West Virginia's first national wildlife refuge; and \$2.5 million for continued construction and restoration at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Additionally, I obtained \$73 million for continued construction of Appalachian Corridor Highways G and H in West Virginia, which will link our state highway system more adequately to some of our country's greatest population centers and increase West Virginia's appeal as a vacation destination for added millions of Americans.

The wise and coordinated development of West Virginia's tourism potential --through the establishment of an Appalachian Tourism Development Center-- can lay a new economic foundation for our state, bringing new hope and prosperity to Appalachia.

June 6, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Moving the FBI's Identification Division to West Virginia

Throughout my career as a United States Senator, I have continually looked for ways to pump more federal dollars into West Virginia.

Consequently, when I learned last year that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) needed to upgrade and modernize its fingerprint Identification Division, I saw an opportunity for West Virginia.

Last fall, I added report language to an appropriations bill directing the FBI to consider relocating the Identification Division to a new site within the Mid-Atlantic region.

Subsequently, I met personally with FBI Director William Sessions to voice my strong interest in West Virginia's being considered for that Mid-Atlantic relocation.

Using its own criteria, after looking at communities throughout West Virginia, the FBI informed me that, tentatively, the Clarksburg area best met its needs for the relocation.

Just recently, I added \$185 million to the supplemental appropriation bill to automate, design, and build the relocated new Identification Division facility.

The FBI has now signed a \$4 million contract calling for a prominent consulting firm to conduct

a feasibility study regarding the proposed relocation of the Identification Division to the Clarksburg area.

Preliminary estimates set the payroll for the new Identification Division at \$75 million annually, with peak employment projected at approximately 2,500 persons, of whom about 80 percent would be hired in West Virginia.

The FBI's Identification Division is the nation's sole central repository for fingerprint records. The Division compiles criminal-history records for, and disseminates them to, more than 62,000 authorized users -- virtually our country's entire criminal-justice community, including the FBI itself, the police forces of all 50 states, the major metropolitan centers across the country, and local and county police operations nationwide.

A new automated fingerprint-identification system is urgently needed by the FBI and by law-enforcement professionals across the country. My efforts to date have put this project on the fast track for West Virginia, enabling the FBI to go forward with the feasibility study, which will determine the exact site of, and the estimated cost of building and equipping, the new facility.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

America's Economic Interests: A New Approach to Foreign Aid

In recent years, I have voted against most foreign aid, much of which has been ill-conceived and ineffective.

But with the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, foreign aid has taken on an enhanced importance, giving the United States a tool for promoting freedom and channeling events in Eastern Europe.

Equally, Eastern Europe's urgent need for economic assistance offers a rare opportunity by which businesses in this country and in West Virginia might benefit significantly.

In the past, a substantial portion of America's economic aid has been in the form of direct, one-way cash transfers.

To ensure that future American foreign aid helps our economy and boosts our competitive position in world trade, I am co-sponsoring legislation mandating that much of American foreign aid be tied to requirements that such aid--whether in the form of credits or loans--be used only to buy American products, materials, services, and technologies.

For some years, other major aid-donating nations--Japan, Germany, England, and France, particularly--have been giving large amounts of their aid,

not in the form of cash but of credits that can be used only to buy certain goods from certain enterprises in the donor country. Japan and Germany both cast more than 80 percent of their aid in this form.

This method of giving foreign assistance allows a donor country to penetrate new markets quickly and to cultivate customers for the future.

Eastern Europe represents a market with a population of roughly 120 million, and a potential market of billions of dollars annually.

Already, Western Europe and Japan are plunging into this new and hungry market with their credit-oriented aid approach. Unless we act fast, American companies may find themselves frozen out of one of the most promising markets in the world today.

Particularly in the fields of coal and chemicals, West Virginia offers products, equipment, and technologies that would be in high demand in Eastern Europe. Credit-based and loan aid in these areas would offer West Virginia companies important new markets that could create jobs and increased prosperity in our state.

June 20, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Taking Firepower Away from Cop Killers, Drug Pushers, and Mass Murderers

Across America, drug traffickers, cop killers, and maniacs are using high-powered, semi-automatic assault weapons to slaughter innocent victims in city streets, back alleys, and school yards.

Policemen in the line of duty, children on school playgrounds, and countless innocent men and women at work in their offices or workshops have been victims of the cold-blooded criminals wielding these assault weapons.

Recently, the U.S. Senate has been debating a comprehensive crime bill aimed at giving our police greater help in the war against violent crime.

At the recommendation of police experts, this bill includes a provision to ban nine of these semi-automatic weapons, known by such names as "Street-Sweepers" and "Commandos."

These are not hunting rifles or sports weapons.

Such assault weapons account for just one-half of one percent of the roughly 200 million privately owned firearms in the United States; yet, they are now used in one out of every ten felonies involving the use of a firearm.

Consistent with my anti-crime record, I voted to ban these assault weapons.

In reaction, however, the Washington-based leadership of the National

Rifle Association (NRA) has charged that I was trying to take firearms away from law-abiding West Virginians.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Through the years, I have been generally supportive of causes and issues promoted by the NRA, which has a commendable record of promoting marksmanship and weapons safety across our country.

But regarding the comprehensive crime bill's ban on semi-automatic assault weapons, the Washington leadership of the NRA has misrepresented the purpose and impact of my vote.

To set the record straight, I did not vote to take away the guns of law-abiding West Virginians.

But I did vote to take away "Street-Sweepers" and "Commandos" from drug traffickers, cop killers, and mass murderers.

I am not against guns. I am against criminals.

The Washington leadership of the NRA should abandon its efforts to scare law-abiding West Virginia gun owners with scurrilous misrepresentations of facts concerning this vote, and instead direct its energies toward the fight against drug thugs, cop killers, and the mass murderers of innocent school children.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A New Plan to Complete West Virginia's Appalachian Corridor Highways

In the past two years, through the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have added \$80 million in federal funds for continuing construction on Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Highway Corridors G and H in West Virginia--\$18 million in 1988 and \$62 million in 1989.

Although the massive federal budget deficit and the record national debt are making it more and more difficult to find federal funds, I shall continue my efforts to add more funding to appropriation bills this year to speed ARC highway construction.

But West Virginia cannot wait another twenty years or more for the completion of these vital transportation routes.

Therefore, to accelerate construction progress, I have introduced legislation, cosponsored by Senator Rockefeller, that would authorize the spending of \$2.360 billion from the federal highway trust fund for the completion of the approximately 940 miles of remaining unconstructed ARC corridor highways in the 13-state Appalachian Region.

Of that amount, \$462 million would be earmarked for the completion of the final 144 miles of

ARC corridor highways in West Virginia--including Corridor H east from the vicinity of Elkins into Virginia, Corridor G from Charleston southwest into Kentucky, and Corridor D in the Parkersburg area.

In addition to the \$2.360 billion, which is a one-time funding shot-in-the-arm, the bill that I have introduced would incorporate the ARC corridor highways into the federal-aid primary highway system, ensuring that the ARC highways would be funded in the future as part of our national highway network.

The ARC corridor highways are the linchpins of new jobs and economic expansion for our state, and the infusion of these proposed new funds will provide a means for bringing faster economic renewal to more areas of West Virginia by creating new job opportunities, added tourism possibilities, and expanded business and industrial development.

This legislation to provide \$462 million for new ARC corridor highway construction in West Virginia would supply a steady and reliable source of money, and would "jump-start" the completion of the remaining corridor highway miles in our state.

July 4, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Timber Bridges: A New Use For West Virginia Hardwoods

West Virginia has long been known for its quality hardwoods, but today our state is also gaining a nationwide reputation for a product of those hardwoods: timber bridges.

Through my Timber Bridge Initiative, I have added \$4 million to appropriation bills over two years to build timber bridges throughout the country, with half the money--\$2 million--earmarked for timber-bridge construction in West Virginia.

The goal of my initiative is twofold: to promote West Virginia hardwoods, and to improve transportation safety in rural West Virginia.

Last year, the U.S. Forest Service selected 33 West Virginia bridges for repair or replacement under the timber-bridge project, and this year, the Forest Service added 11 more bridges to the list, for a total of 44 hardwood bridges in West Virginia.

These projects--including the new round of 11 bridges to be built in Boone, Clay, Cabell, Roane, Marion, Harrison, Jefferson, Lewis, Pendleton, Fayette, and McDowell Counties--are demonstrating that West Virginia hardwoods can be used to build safe and durable bridges throughout

West Virginia and the nation.

As part of my initiative, I also established the Timber Bridge Resource Center at the U.S. Forestry Sciences Laboratory at Morgantown, from which the national timber-bridge construction program is administered.

Tests have shown that treated timber bridges have a lifespan of roughly 70 years, which is more than that of conventional concrete and steel structures, whose exposure to salt, freezing, and wear renders them extremely susceptible to deterioration and costly to maintain.

My initiative has made West Virginia the leading state in developing a coordinated timber-bridge program.

To date, 10 of the West Virginia bridges originally selected for replacement under my program have been completed, with another 23 of those bridges scheduled for completion this fall.

When all 44 spans have been completed, these new timber bridges will serve as excellent examples of the durability, economy, and versatility of an important West Virginia product, and will afford long years of safe transportation to countless West Virginia travelers.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

National Youth Science Camp 1990

Throughout my career, I have been committed to improving educational opportunities for young West Virginians, encouraging them to develop their talents through continued schooling and training.

My efforts include the Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Recognition Award program, through which I have presented U.S. Savings Bonds to nearly 6,000 West Virginia valedictorians since 1969; and the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship program, which has awarded \$256,500 worth of federally funded, merit-based college scholarships to 171 West Virginians since 1987.

In another program to encourage talented young people, I was again privileged this year to welcome delegates from the National Youth Science Camp in West Virginia to Washington.

For the 27th year, the National Youth Science Camp this summer drew 102 promising students from across the nation to the Pocahontas County 4-H camp at Bartow.

The Youth Science Camp is composed of two students from each state and the District of Columbia, selected on the bases of academic achievement, leadership abilities, and interest in a science-oriented career.

For three weeks each summer, these outstanding

students take part in lectures and discussions on biology, physics, astrophysics, botany, zoology, geology, and other sciences; they hike, camp, and explore caves in West Virginia's forests and mountains; and they meet some of the leading scientists, technical experts, and research pioneers of our era.

As an annual feature, the Youth Science campers make a visit to Washington to meet their Senators and Representatives, hear outstanding speakers at a Senate luncheon, and tour significant Washington institutions.

West Virginia's own delegates to the Camp this year are Grant Stewart Bromhal of Keyser, Mineral County; and Bart Owen McCoy of Eleanor, Putnam County.

In recent years, other countries have challenged the scientific and technological leadership that was once unquestionably America's.

To regain our international leadership in these areas, America's young people must be encouraged to consider careers in science, research, and technology.

I am proud of my association with West Virginia's National Youth Science Camp, and of the scientific and technological inspiration that it has provided for more than a quarter-century.

July 18, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

New Funds for West Virginia's ARC Highways

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$30 million for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) highway construction in West Virginia to a Senate funding bill, and succeeded in earmarking \$45 million of ARC highway construction funds specifically for a 5.3 mile segment of ARC Corridor G between Nolan and Williamson in Mingo County.

Completing the ARC corridor highways in West Virginia is one of my top priorities.

In addition to adding these funds for Corridor G, I will seek additional funds for Corridors H and D in another appropriation bill.

Two years ago, I added \$18 million for the Buckhannon Bypass on Corridor H. Last year, I pushed through \$62 million for continued construction on both Corridors H and G, of which \$10 million was for Williamson's notorious "rock wall" segment of Corridor G.

Several weeks ago, I introduced legislation, cosponsored by Senator Rockefeller, to include the completion of the ARC corridor highways in the next federal highway authorization bill, and to

allocate construction funds--including \$462 million for West Virginia's ARC routes--out of the federal highway trust fund surplus. However, I do not intend to await final action on that bill, which may be months away. I am going ahead now with funding action in my Appropriations Committee for West Virginia's corridor highways.

Since the Colonial era, West Virginia's growth and development have been hindered by bad or nonexistent roads. Throughout our state's history, the creation of jobs and the attraction of new businesses and industries have depended on ready access to progressively more modern highways.

Completing the ARC corridor highways will increase West Virginia's appeal to outside investors and will allow West Virginia business people to reach new markets and new customers more easily with their goods and services.

My ARC corridor highway appropriations are important for West Virginia's future growth and economic prosperity, and I shall continue my efforts to push completion of these vital commercial and travel links in our state.

July 25, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

A Lifesaving Suggestion

As the summer draws to a close, many young men and women across West Virginia are preparing to take major steps in their lives.

Many will be leaving home for the first time, some to enter college and others to take a job or launch a career in a strange city.

On the other hand, many young West Virginians will return to college or to high school nearby.

In any case, all young West Virginians should think seriously about a devastating problem that is confronting our entire country so that they can make the sanest possible decision about their personal responses to that problem.

That problem is the continuing menace of drug and alcohol abuse in our society.

For the past quarter century, irresponsible people have glamorized drug use and surrounded it with glitter and sparkle.

Popular youth icons--"rock stars," movie and television celebrities, and international "superstars"--have been hailed as "hip" and smart for their drug use. Alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, crack, and a number of other mind-altering poisons have been heralded as supreme experiences.

Nothing could be further from the truth, and to-

day, wandering among the "homeless" on the streets of America's cities are thousands of zombies who are proof of that fact.

Some of those drug victims probably were once bright, alert, involved, and excited about life.

But drugs ended all that. Drugs burned away their talents. In many cases, drugs ended their sanity.

In some tragic instances, alcohol cut short the lives of their friends in automobile wrecks.

In other instances, drugs drove their friends to suicide.

Drugs and alcohol are not candy and cola. They can be deadly.

One often hears the admonition, "If you drink, don't drive."

I would go one step more: "Don't drink--period."

I hope that young West Virginians will not play Russian roulette with their lives or gamble with their minds by using alcohol and drugs.

As they launch into new opportunities, at home or far away, I wish our young men and women every success, hoping for them the fullest and most successful lives possible, free of substances that can ruin and cut short the pursuit of happiness that is their birthright as West Virginians.

August 1, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Ringling Up More Federal Dollars For West Virginia Highways

New highways are a key to jobs and economic development in West Virginia, and as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$161.5 million to the Fiscal Year 1991 Transportation Appropriation bill for highway construction in West Virginia.

This brings to \$206.5 million the total amount that I added to Senate appropriation bills for West Virginia highway construction in slightly more than one week.

That total includes \$45 million that I earmarked in another appropriation bill for construction of a 5.3 mile segment of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor G between Nolan and Williamson in Mingo County.

Broken down into particular projects, the \$161.5 million that I added to the Transportation Bill includes:

--\$50 million that I put in for construction of the Weirton Bypass of U.S. 22, which will entail four-laning Route 22 to handle increased local and interstate traffic caused by the completion of the Veterans Memorial Bridge across the Ohio River to Steubenville, Ohio;

--\$51.5 million that I added to continue construction of Corridor H between Buckhannon and Elkins;

--\$10 million that I put in for engineering and

right-of-way acquisition for the Corridor D Parkersburg Bypass;

--and \$50 million that I got for additional work on Corridor G between Williamson and Mt. Gay.

The transportation appropriation bill reported by my Senate Appropriations Committee and approved by the Senate also includes language that I added directing the Secretary of Transportation to give priority to using discretionary bridge funds to replace the Chelyan Bridge east of Charleston.

The ARC corridor highway money that I have added to appropriation bills this year brings to \$236.5 million the total funding that I have pushed through for ARC highways in West Virginia the past three years, including \$18 million that I got for the Corridor H Buckhannon Bypass two years ago, and \$62 million that I added for Corridors G and H last year.

I believe that a keystone to future economic growth and new job opportunities in West Virginia is the completion of the ARC highway system.

I am committed to doing all that I can through the Senate Appropriations Committee to accelerate completion of the ARC corridor highway system, thus helping West Virginia to enjoy a new era of development and prosperity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

FBI Identification Division Definitely Moving to West Virginia

Just recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) made the final decision to move its 2,500-employee Identification Division to West Virginia. The decision to build new quarters for this facility on an 850-acre site near Clarksburg is a major economic triumph for all of West Virginia, since this will be the largest federal facility ever to locate in our state.

More than a year ago, I began my efforts to secure this important law enforcement operation for West Virginia. I had learned that the Identification Division needed to automate and update its fingerprint-identification operations, and wanted to relocate the facility outside the Washington, D.C., area.

Last fall, I added report language to an appropriation bill directing the FBI to consider relocating the Identification Division to a new site within the Mid-Atlantic region.

I met personally with FBI Director William Sessions several times to voice my strong interest in West Virginia's being considered for that relocation. At my request, the FBI sent two teams into West Virginia to look at communities throughout the state.

In the month of May, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$185 million to

a supplemental appropriation bill to automate, design, and build the relocated new Identification Division facility.

Using its own criteria, the FBI chose the Harrison County site, thus ending all speculation concerning the Identification Division's new location.

The FBI's Identification Division will bring into north-central West Virginia an estimated annual payroll of approximately \$75 million.

Just as significant, the FBI expects to hire 80 percent of the Identification Division's 2,500 employees from the local area.

The FBI has cited among the advantages of relocating the Identification Division to the Clarksburg area the availability of space and the stability of the potential workforce, as well as proximity to a major university and smaller colleges.

I am particularly gratified to have gotten this important federal facility for West Virginia. The Identification Division not only offers West Virginia a large source of new job opportunities, but this new, automated fingerprint-identification facility, staffed primarily by dedicated West Virginians, will also be an immeasurable asset in the war against crime for our whole country.

August 15, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

1990 Update on Free Federal Information Hotlines

The following list of toll-free Federal hotlines can help West Virginians obtain information about Federal programs and services, and about regulations and opportunities that may affect them directly.

Retired Army Pay Problems	1-800-428-2290
Cancer Hotline, Department of Health and Human Services	1-800-4-CANCER
National Runaway Switchboard	1-800-621-4000 (For parents and runaways to leave messages)
Parents Anonymous (child abuse)	1-800-421-0353
Consumer Product Safety Commission	1-800-638-CPSC (Product recall, complaints, fact sheets)
Environmental Protection Agency	1-800-424-9346 (Hazardous-waste information)
Financial Aid for College Students (National) Department of Education	1-800-333-INFO
AIDS Hotline (National)	1-800-342-AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)
Pesticide Emergency Information Clearinghouse	1-800-858-PEST
Federal Emergency Management Agency	1-800-638-6620 (Flood-insurance information)
National Health Information Clearinghouse	1-800-336-4797
Hill-Burton Free Hospital Care Hotline	1-800-638-0742
Small Business Administration	1-800-368-5855 (Answer Desk)
Social Security Administration	1-800-848-0106 (Medicare questions)
Veterans Benefits Counseling	1-800-642-3520
Transportation Department	1-800-424-9393 (Auto-safety information and complaints)
Washington, D.C., Central Reservation Center	1-800-554-2220 (Information on lodging in the Nation's Capital)

August 22, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Unleashing a New Weapon In West Virginia's War Against Cancer

According to the American Cancer Society, West Virginia ranks 13th in the nation in the number of deaths from cancer.

In spite of that troubling statistic, West Virginians have long been forced to go to out-of-state facilities to obtain specialized cancer treatment.

That was because West Virginia had no major in-state cancer research and treatment center.

That deficiency has now been corrected.

Recently, I participated in the dedication of the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center and the Robert C. Byrd Cancer Research Laboratory at the West Virginia University Medical Center in Morgantown.

I have long been concerned about the threat of cancer to the people of West Virginia, and some years ago, I began working to establish a major cancer research facility in West Virginia.

Beginning with the Fiscal Year 1986 appropriations bill, and following up with the appropriations bills in Fiscal Years 1987 and 1988, I added a total of approximately \$13.5 million in federal funds to build the Mary Babb

Randolph Cancer Center, named for Senator Randolph's late wife, herself a cancer victim.

The completion of this new cancer center, and the related statewide cancer program that it will coordinate, will give West Virginia a first-rate research and treatment facility, dedicated to the fight against cancer in our state.

On another front in the war on cancer, I secured federal funds last year for the Centers for Disease Control to implement a new program for early screening and detection of cervical and breast cancer. West Virginia, which has the nation's third highest cervical cancer rate, was one of only three states selected to participate in this program and was recently awarded a \$400,000 grant by the Centers for Disease Control.

Traditionally, rural states like West Virginia have struggled to provide adequate health services to their citizens. I believe that the new Cancer Center at West Virginia University will correct some of those inadequacies in our state, and will afford West Virginians valuable resources in the battle against a cruel disease.

August 29, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Bringing New High Technology Resources to West Virginia

High technology touches the lives of all of us, from the supermarket checkout line to the classroom to the factory or office. And new technological advances are coming on line virtually every day. In order to be competitive in the 21st century, Americans will have to be better versed in science, mathematics, engineering, and other building blocks of the high-tech revolution.

To that end, I have been working to bring space-age mathematics and science education to West Virginia, and to make high-technology advances more available to private business and industry in our state.

For example, Congressman Alan Mollohan and I secured \$1.4 million in a Fiscal Year 1990 appropriation bill to establish at Wheeling Jesuit College, in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), an initiative called "The Classroom of the Future" to develop software and programs for space-science education.

In addition, I added \$4 million to an appropriation bill to establish at Wheeling Jesuit a National Technology Transfer Center to make available to the private sector the various technologies developed by NASA in more than three decades of space exploration and research.

The Classroom of the Future at Wheeling Jesuit

College will feature on-campus training opportunities for teachers from throughout West Virginia and surrounding areas to study space-age mathematics and science. The facility will also allow satellite broadcasts to and from participating colleges, afford simulated space-shuttle and mission-control experiences, and make available for training a "21st century classroom," complete with 30 computer work stations surrounding a large video screen to allow computerized interaction among students and teachers.

The Technology Transfer Center is intended to stimulate economic development in West Virginia and the rest of the country and promote our ability to compete in world markets by providing a technology-transfer link now missing between federal delivery systems and potential technology-users in the private sector.

Wheeling Jesuit College recently inaugurated these NASA initiatives with the launching of a new Teacher Resource Center, the first element of the Classroom of the Future. I am pleased that I was able to play a role in bringing to West Virginia these initiatives, which will help our students and businesses step into the high-tech workplace of the 21st century with competence and confidence.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Still No National Security Without Energy Security

Iraq's invasion and seizure of tiny oil-rich Kuwait once again underlines America's energy weaknesses.

Though little of America's recent petroleum needs have been met from Iraqi or Kuwaiti sources, Iraq's aggression has resulted in an increase in U.S. energy prices.

In the late 1970's, as Senate Majority Leader, I spearheaded Congressional efforts to put into place federal programs to encourage the full development of our national energy resources, with a special emphasis on abundant coal supplies such as we possess in West Virginia, and to forge national energy policies that would make America virtually energy independent.

Unfortunately, in 1981 the Reagan administration, claiming the superiority of uninhibited market forces, systematically dismantled the domestic energy policies that had been created to promote synthetic fuels from coal and oil shale, energy conservation, and alternative energy research. In so doing, the Reagan administration effectively emasculated the Department of Energy's fossil-fuels and renewable-energy programs.

In 1973, at the beginning of the Arab oil embargo, America was importing about 35 percent of its annual oil consumption.

Largely as a result of shortsightedness over the

past decade, we are today importing nearly 50 percent of our annual oil consumption from South American, African, Middle Eastern, and other foreign oil fields.

After considerable effort, I won administration support in recent years for my Clean Coal Technology Program, for which I have added \$2.7 billion to appropriation bills through 1992 to develop technologies to use coal more cleanly and efficiently.

My Clean Coal Technology Program is an important step toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil. But this is only one step.

As I have urged since the energy crises of the 1970's, America must have an overall energy policy -- a comprehensive national plan that will fully develop our massive coal reserves, as well as our oil, natural gas, and other resources. Through both private and public commitments, a national energy policy could free us from our vulnerabilities to the whims of foreign despots and to the political instabilities inherent in the Middle East.

America already possesses the energy resources and the technological potential to develop energy security. Needed are the will and leadership to put into place long-term, comprehensive, and coordinated energy policies.

In today's world, genuine national security depends on genuine energy security.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Planning for the Future

Currently, the United States is experiencing extremely difficult budget constraints.

To solve our national fiscal problems, some painful choices will have to be made.

In making those choices, priority consideration must be given to investing in the building and rebuilding of our nation's highways, bridges, railroads, airports, locks and dams, public water-supply and waste-disposal systems, and other facilities that make possible economic growth and development.

Such facilities are critical to increasing our national productivity, meeting the challenges of foreign economic competition, and maintaining America's standard of living.

Without efficient, modern, well-maintained highways, for example, goods cannot be moved economically and expeditiously to markets.

The Federal highway system is particularly important. Federally supported highways currently comprise only 22 percent of our national road system, but log roughly 81 percent of all motor vehicle miles traveled per year.

Realizing the importance of a modern transportation infrastructure to economic growth and prosperity, I am continuing to work for the completion of the remaining Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) cor-

ridor highways in our state --Corridor H from Buckhannon east, Corridor G between Charleston and the Kentucky line, and Corridor D near Parkersburg.

Recently, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added a total of \$206.5 million to Senate appropriation bills in slightly more than one week for West Virginia highway construction, including ARC Corridors G, H, and D, and the Weirton Bypass of Route 22 in the Northern Panhandle.

Likewise, I have helped to push through funds to replace a number of locks and dams on the Ohio River, including the Gallipolis locks and dam near Point Pleasant, which is estimated to cost \$345 million; to rebuild the Winfield locks and dam on the Kanawha River in Putnam County, estimated at \$203 million; and to rebuild Locks 7 and 8 on the Monongahela River north of Morgantown, estimated at \$266.6 million.

Moreover, I helped to secure federal funds to replace the Weirton-Steuenville bridge, the Marietta-Williamstown bridge near Parkersburg, and the Sixth Street Bridge in Huntington.

My aim in channeling these federal funds into West Virginia is to put in place a vital transportation infrastructure on which to create new economic and job opportunities in the years ahead.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Clean Up Television Programs!

Television is a marvel. Through television, a viewer in West Virginia can watch pictures almost instantly sent from Washington, London, Tokyo, or Moscow.

Television is probably the most powerful means of swaying public opinion ever invented.

I am increasingly disturbed, however, by the language used on so many television shows, and by the violence and lack of morality evident in too many programs.

Currently, the average American family is being treated to televised dialogue that is universally considered offensive in polite company.

Television also doles out a never-ending array of stabbings, muggings, murders, assaults, and rapes.

I am concerned about the impact of this level of programming on America's young people.

The crudeness, profanity, vice, and violence that are broadcast today on our television screens will be the behavior that we will be forced to endure in communities throughout West Virginia and America in the years ahead. Worse, such television pro-

gramming is teaching our children that this kind of speech and behavior is acceptable.

In fact, such television programming is like taking arsenic to build up immunity against its normally deadly effect. With each dose of television profanity, pornography, promiscuity, murder, and other violence, a person becomes less uncomfortable with those moral poisons, until at last his conscience loses the ability to object to them.

I know from my mail that many West Virginians share my concern about such corruption on television.

The best recourse for those concerned about profanity and violence on television is to make their objections known directly to the networks, local stations, and sponsors responsible for television programs.

The airwaves over which television is beamed belong to the people, and citizens who object to profanity, violence, and immorality on television have the right to make their objections known to those controlling the programming.

September 26, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Warding Off Urban Violence

Just recently, a 12-year-old Brooklyn girl was killed by a stray bullet--the sixth New York City child to die in such a senseless crime since June.

So far this year, 352 people have been murdered in Washington, D.C.

Currently, Los Angeles is enduring deadly street warfare as youth gangs battle one another.

Again in New York, three young thugs were recently convicted in the incredible attack, rape, and near-murder of a young female jogger in Central Park. And just a few weeks ago, a young Utah man was stabbed to death on a New York City subway platform as he fought to protect his mother and father during a mugging.

These incidents are but the surface evidence of the crime, violence, and lawlessness that grip a growing number of large urban communities in our country. Beset by drug addicts and violent gangs who support themselves largely by theft, robbery, and burglary, residents of many American cities fear for their safety even behind locked doors.

More significantly, the tides of crime and violence rising in many large cities demonstrate the callous

disregard for human life and the rights of one's neighbors when basic and traditional values are ignored or deliberately flouted.

We in West Virginia are more fortunate than most of our fellow Americans.

As annual crime statistics regularly show, West Virginians continue to enjoy an increasingly rare security. Perhaps the secret of West Virginia's perennially low crime rate is the insistence by West Virginians that individuals must answer to themselves, their families, their communities, and a Higher Power for their conduct and their misconduct.

Much that is lacking in many crime-plagued urban areas can be found in West Virginia: respect for the law, self-discipline, a strong sense of responsibility, and a high regard for the rights of others.

These values help West Virginia ward off the violence that is sweeping some areas of our country.

In the years ahead, as we work for progress and new opportunities in West Virginia, I hope that we will preserve these traditional assets that most define us as West Virginians.

October 3, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investing in America's Future

Since 1981, under the Reagan and Bush Administrations, America's national debt has rocketed from slightly under \$1 trillion -- accumulated by thirty-nine presidents over nearly two centuries -- to more than \$3.3 trillion.

Few would argue that we need to reduce this staggering debt load. At the same time, however, we have a duty to invest in the foundations on which tomorrow's economic strength and national security will depend.

Throughout the past decade, federal investment in roads, bridges, airports, educational systems, community health-care programs, and non-defense research and development has been neglected.

Currently, the United States spends a smaller percentage of its annual wealth on these programs and efforts than do Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada, or Italy.

As a result, real U.S. economic growth is stagnating.

Two decades ago, U.S.-produced automobiles and consumer electronics were nearly unchallenged in our domestic markets.

Today, however, foreign manufacturers have captured one third of America's domestic automobile market and 95 percent of our consumer electronics market.

Average U.S. wages, adjusted for inflation, have been falling since the early 1970's, with today's U.S. worker enjoying less real buying power than in 1972.

The long-term solution to America's deficit problems will require investing in those assets and resources -- such as physical infrastructure, technology, and education -- that will make America more productive and more competitive in world markets.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am doing all that I can to obtain federal funds to invest in West Virginia's future economic foundations--Appalachian corridor highways, public water and sewerage systems, bridges, the FBI's 2,500-employee Identification Division, the replacement radio telescope at Greenbank, hardwoods-industry research and development, tourism development, flood control, airport improvements, small-business and defense-industry contracting, coal and energy research, and high-technology research and expertise development, to name some investment efforts.

My commitment is to put into place the kind of improved infrastructure that will prepare West Virginia to compete and prosper in the twenty-first century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Promoting Greater Worker Safety In West Virginia

Throughout my career in the Senate, I have been committed to improving the health and safety of the men and women who work in West Virginia's mines, factories, mills, and other enterprises.

To that end, some years ago I launched--and won federal funds to build--the Mine Safety and Health Academies at Beckley and at Dallas Pike near Wheeling, as well as the Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Safety and Health (ALOSH) at Morgantown.

Against that background of interest in promoting greater worker safety and health, I got \$5 million last year for the planning and design of a national "state-of-the-art" occupational safety and health laboratory at Morgantown.

Recently, I added \$30 million to a Senate appropriation bill for the construction of this laboratory. This item has to go to a conference with the House of Representatives, and I hope that the House conferees will agree to it.

This proposed world-class research facility would be operated by the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in

Atlanta, in conjunction with ALOSH in Morgantown. Plans call for this facility to be completed in 1995, and to employ more than 300 new personnel--chemists, engineers, radiologists, microbiologists, toxicologists, researchers, and staff included.

The purpose of the new Morgantown CDC laboratory would be to keep the United States in the forefront of research into workplace health and safety. The location of this facility in our state would give West Virginians further advantages in developing safer, more healthful work situations.

In a related effort, I have put \$1.5 million into an appropriation bill in order to establish and staff a new mine emergency and firefighting training program at the National Mine Safety and Health Academy at Beckley.

Coal mining and a number of other heavy industrial jobs in West Virginia are among the most dangerous and potentially life-threatening of all work possibilities, and I shall continue my efforts to promote and improve the safety and health of our West Virginia workers in their workplaces.

October 17, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Civil War Sidelights in West Virginia

With millions of other Americans, I viewed with interest the recent presentation of The Civil War by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Unfortunately, time limits permitted little treatment of the Civil War battles that occurred in West Virginia.

In fact, West Virginia was a major theater of Civil War activity, and boasts an often unrecognized Civil War heritage.

In recognition of the importance of John Brown's Raid as a herald of the Civil War, I have made the preservation and restoration of Harpers Ferry one of my ongoing priorities. Today, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to West Virginia.

Stonewall Jackson is one of the world's most famous military figures; yet, few Americans realize that he was born in what is now West Virginia and spent his formative youth in the Clarksburg area.

The first land battle of the War was fought at Philippi in Barbour County.

Furthermore, Union General George B. McClellan and Confederate General Robert E. Lee conducted their initial Civil War campaigns in West Virginia.

During the War, two men who later served as President of the United States--Rutherford B. Hayes and William

McKinley--saw action as Union soldiers in West Virginia.

Also, Federal General Lew Wallace, author of the 19th century bestseller Ben Hur, distinguished himself in one of the battles in the Romney area of Hampshire County, and General John C. Fremont -- the Republican Party's first presidential candidate--commanded Union troops in West Virginia.

Colonel George Smith Patton, a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and the son of a former Virginia governor, was a Charleston-area attorney who, in 1859, organized some of his Kanawha County neighbors into the "Kanawha Rifles" for military-training purposes. At the outbreak of the War, Patton's Rifles became a company of the Confederate Army's 22nd Virginia Infantry, which Patton commanded until his death in 1864.

Colonel Patton's grandson, General George S. Patton, Jr., won world renown in World War II as commander of the U.S. Third Army in Europe.

After the Civil War, several former Confederate officials held important positions in West Virginia, including West Virginia's U.S. Senator Allen T. Caperton in 1875-76, who had formerly served as one of Virginia's Senators in the Confederate Congress.

West Virginia has a vivid history, of which the Civil War years comprise a fascinating chapter.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More ARC Highway Funds For West Virginia

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I recently added \$175 million for construction of West Virginia highways.

This brings to \$255.5 million the total federal funds that I have added for West Virginia highway construction over the past two years.

These most recent appropriations that I got for West Virginia include:

--\$51.5 million to continue construction on Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Corridor H between Buckhannon and Elkins;

--\$10 million for engineering and design work on the Parkersburg Bypass of Corridor D;

--\$33 million for work on a 1.3 mile segment of Corridor G around Williamson;

--\$38 million for a 5.3 mile segment of Corridor G between Williamson and Nolan; and

--\$42.5 million for the Weirton Bypass of U.S. Route 22.

The \$51.5 million that I got for Corridor H will allow construction of 8.94 miles, including the Tygart Valley River Bridge, and

will complete four-laning of Corridor H from Buckhannon to a point just west of Elkins.

The funds for the Weirton Bypass will allow four-laning of Route 22 in West Virginia, tying in with the new Veterans Memorial Bridge across the Ohio River.

In addition, I have won approval of a provision that I had added to a committee report directing the Secretary of Transportation to give priority status to the replacement of the Chelyan Bridge east of Charleston in using federal discretionary bridge funds.

Even in this era of federal budget constraints, I am working to accelerate the completion of the ARC corridor highway system in West Virginia and the improvement of vital highway segments such as the Weirton Bypass.

I believe that investing in modern, four-lane highways will bring new job opportunities to our state and promote the essential economic development that West Virginia must experience to attract new enterprises to our state and ensure our future.

October 31, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

More Federal Funds For West Virginia's Hardwood Industry

In my efforts to promote a world-class wood-products industry in West Virginia, I recently added \$8.1 million to an appropriation bill to advance wood-products technology and training and hardwood-product usage in West Virginia.

As Chairman of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I added \$4.5 million to a funding bill to begin construction of a wood-products training center and high-tech manufacturing complex in Mercer County, and \$3.6 million to continue my Timber Bridge Initiative.

Feasibility studies that I had requested earlier this year recommended establishing the training and manufacturing complex in Mercer County, near the U.S. Forest Service Advanced Hardwood Resource Center, located at Gardner.

My aim is to develop the nucleus of a hardwood-manufacturing industry that can make full use of West Virginia's hardwood-forest growth potential, and to create job opportunities in the years ahead in a growing wood-products industry in our state.

The wood-products training and manufacturing complex would include a facility to train workers on state-of-the-art equipment, as well as a facility to provide on-site, computerized flexible-manufacturing services to wood-

products enterprises.

The center would be operated jointly by the Forest Service and the private sector, and is expected itself to employ 50 to 60 people.

My Timber Bridge Initiative is geared to promote the use of West Virginia hardwoods through the nationwide replacement of small bridges that are deficient and obsolete, utilizing treated hardwoods as long-lasting, lower cost alternatives to conventional materials.

To date, I have gotten \$6 million for timber-bridge construction nationwide, of which \$2 million has gone toward construction of 44 timber bridges in West Virginia, selected by the Forest Service and the State Highway Department in the first two years of my initiative.

Of the recent \$3.6 million added to my Timber Bridge Initiative, \$2 million is earmarked for construction, \$700,000 is slated to operate the Hardwood Timber Bridge Information Resource Center in Morgantown, and \$900,000 is intended for further timber-bridge research.

Based on the intelligent management of a renewable resource, the hardwood-products industry offers West Virginia new opportunities, new jobs, and new economic possibilities long into the future.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding West Virginia's Only National Wildlife Refuge

Throughout my life, I have appreciated West Virginia's natural beauty and wild resources.

Consequently, I have long worked to improve our two great national forests -- the Monongahela and the George Washington, to bolster and expand the national fish hatcheries in our state, to reclaim abandoned mine land, and to develop the tourism possibilities of such natural assets as the New River Gorge and Harpers Ferry.

In the past two years, I have been working to enhance another of West Virginia's natural riches that I recognized as important to our state's ecological well-being.

Last year, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$850,000 to an appropriation bill to establish a group of ecologically sensitive Ohio River islands along West Virginia's boundary as our state's first National Wildlife Refuge.

The islands in this refuge -- stretching from the Northern Panhandle County of Hancock to south of Point Pleasant in Mason County -- comprise one of West Virginia's and America's richest and most diverse habitats for fish, plants, birds, and other

wildlife populations.

The funding that I added last year has provided for the purchase of twelve of the islands -- Phillis, Georgetown, Paden, Broadback, Grape, Bat, Witten-Towhead, Grandview, Mill Creek, Wells, Williamson, and Muskingum.

This year, I succeeded in adding \$1.25 million to the 1991 Interior Appropriation Bill to include another nine islands in the wildlife refuge -- Captina, Fish Creek, Eureka, Marietta, Newberry, Mustapha, Buffington, Eight Mile, and Gallipolis.

Since long before mankind's arrival in North America, the Ohio River islands have been central facets in Nature's ecological system of renewal and recreation.

The inclusion of these 21 Ohio River islands in West Virginia's only National Wildlife Refuge ensures that they will play an increasingly efficient and productive role in undergirding the environmental health of the Ohio Valley and its surrounding territory.

In addition, the Ohio River islands will contribute to West Virginia's expanding tourism industry, one of our state's important sources of future jobs and prosperity.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

West Virginia: A "State-of-the-Art" State

West Virginia has long been known as a great coal-producing and manufacturing state. These basic industries still form the core of West Virginia's economy, but today, as a result of initiatives I have undertaken as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, West Virginia is becoming a national showcase for a growing array of high-tech, state-of-the-art projects and facilities.

For example:

* The Federal Bureau of Investigation is relocating its Fingerprint Identification Division to West Virginia and, with \$185 million which I added to an appropriation bill, is establishing a new, state-of-the-art fingerprint identification facility in the Clarksburg area that will employ approximately 2,500 persons.

* The Federal Centers for Disease Control plans to build a 200,000 square-foot state-of-the-art Occupational Safety and Health Laboratory at Morgantown. This facility, for which I recently got \$25 million to begin construction, will be an international resource for safety and health research.

* In the Eastern Panhandle, I added \$24.9 million to a recent appropriation bill to establish a world-class National Training Center for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

* In Wheeling, with \$8 million in appropriations that I got and \$1.4 million obtained by Rep. Alan Mollohan, the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration is establishing a Classroom of the Future and a National Technology Transfer Center at Wheeling Jesuit College to help West Virginians apply NASA's space age advances to their classrooms, offices, and factories.

* With a \$75 million appropriation I got last year, the National Science Foundation is building a state-of-the-art replacement radiotelescope at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, Pocahontas County.

* In Mercer County, with \$4.5 million I added to a recent funding bill, construction is to begin on a high-tech wood products training and manufacturing complex that is intended to bring the latest in advanced techniques to West Virginia's wood products industry.

* With \$5.8 million that I got in appropriations, the Robert C. Byrd Institute for Advanced Flexible Manufacturing Systems has been established at Marshall University in Huntington under an Air Force program to develop new computerized manufacturing processes to make American industry more competitive.

Through these efforts, and other high-tech initiatives I am pursuing, I am working to make West Virginia a "state-of-the-art" state that will have a strong and diversified economy offering expanding job opportunities for West Virginians well into the 21st century.



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Another New Federal Facility For West Virginia

One of my long-term priorities has been to increase the presence of federal facilities in West Virginia.

Historically, West Virginia's mountain streams, lakes, and ponds have been famous for quality sports fishing and for drawing significant numbers of tourists annually. In addition, West Virginia boasts an abundance of wildlife and wildlife habitats that are of interest to tourists, sportsmen, and naturalists.

Against that background, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I added \$24.9 million to an Interior Department appropriation bill this year for planning, engineering, design, and other pre-construction costs requisite to building a state-of-the-art U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Education and Training Center in West Virginia.

These funds are in addition to \$4.9 million that I got last year for the preliminary design of this facility.

To be located in the Harpers Ferry area of Jefferson County, the Training Center will be a world-class institution that will bring fish and wildlife professionals from throughout the country to West Virginia for training and education in wildlife management and other ecological concerns.

In addition to the Fish and Wildlife Service, other agencies that will use the facility include the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. military.

Currently, the Fish and Wildlife Service's training operations are fragmented nationwide and are too limited in scope to meet the agency's expanding responsibilities.

The new Training Center will permit the Fish and Wildlife Service to gather all of its training operations into one facility in which efficient, coordinated training programs will be offered to federal and other fish and wildlife professionals.

Combined in the Harpers Ferry complex will be classrooms, laboratories, exhibits, and field-site training opportunities.

Scheduled for completion in 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Education and Training Center will be an important asset for ensuring the continued health of a vital element of America's natural legacy, as well as a significant addition to the growing number of federal facilities locating in West Virginia.

November 28, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Expanding Tourism in West Virginia

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am continually working on initiatives to strengthen West Virginia's economy and to create new job opportunities in our state.

Tourism is one enterprise offering West Virginia real promise.

To enhance West Virginia's tourism potential, I have long made the establishment and development of national park facilities in our state a top priority. In the Eastern Panhandle, for example, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, for which I have added more than \$5 million over the past two years to improve facilities, draws hundreds of thousands of tourists to West Virginia every year.

In Southern West Virginia, the development of the New River Gorge National River in Fayette County, for which I have added \$12 million to appropriation bills over two years for a variety of construction projects, is also one of my ongoing efforts.

In addition to these initiatives, I am also exploring the possibility of new national park developments in our state.

For example, this year I got \$325,000 in an appropriation bill to continue

a feasibility study for a new national park unit in Wheeling. This is in addition to the \$175,000 I got last year to initiate the Wheeling Heritage Project. Wheeling has played a unique role in the pioneering, commercial, and industrial expansion of our country, and offers great historical and educational value as a park unit.

Moreover, I added \$150,000 in funding to study the feasibility of developing a national park unit in Bramwell; \$100,000 for a coal-heritage study in Southern West Virginia; and \$310,000 to acquire 61 miles of abandoned rail line between Wood County and Harrison County for the Park Service.

In other tourism-related appropriation action, I got \$350,000 to continue development of an Appalachian Tourism Center at Concord College in Mercer County and \$2 million to establish West Virginia's only National Wildlife Refuge, the Ohio River Islands.

Creating new jobs and broadening our state's economic base are vital to West Virginia's future. These further initiatives that I am promoting in tourism promise to pay valuable dividends in the years ahead.

December 5, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Investing for West Virginia's Future

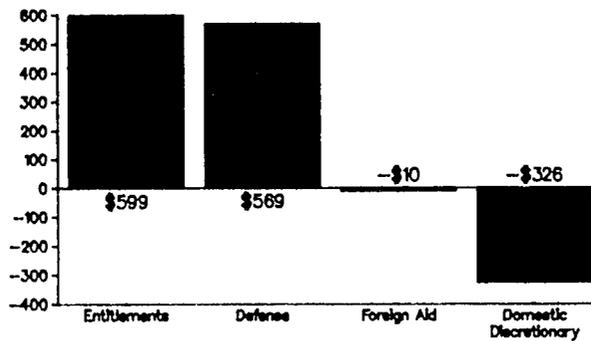
Since becoming Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in January 1989, I have added nearly \$1 billion to appropriations bills for West Virginia.

My efforts include funding I have gotten for Appalachian Corridor highways G, H, and D, and the Weirton Bypass of Route 22; flood-control projects, such as the Tug Fork; a new National Training Center for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; my Timber Bridge Initiative, military construction for the National Guard and Reserve, the

increased \$599 billion over inflation. By contrast, domestic discretionary spending -- which funds roads, bridges, airports, mass transit, water and sewer facilities and other physical and human infrastructure investments -- decreased by a total of \$326 billion below the rate of inflation.

As a result of these budget distortions, our roads, bridges, airports, and other public facilities are deteriorating. Additionally, education, law enforcement, medical research, economic development, housing, and water

Fiscal Years 1981 - 1990 (Outlays in Billions)



FBI's Identification Division facility, coal-related energy programs, and tourism-boosting efforts, such as the New River Gorge National River.

My purpose in bringing these new facilities and improvements to West Virginia is to lay foundations to create new jobs and opportunities for our state in the years ahead.

Unfortunately, in recent years, our country has failed to invest in the future as it should.

The current budget-deficit and national-debt crises are largely the product of massive increases over the past ten years in defense spending and entitlement programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and other mandatory spending.

The accompanying graph illustrates the dramatic increase in defense spending, which, during the 10-year period between 1981 and 1990, grew \$569 billion over inflation. Also during that same period, entitlements

and sewage treatment facilities have been increasingly neglected or ignored.

Conversely, other industrial nations -- Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada, and Italy -- have been investing increasing amounts in the same infrastructures and services that America has neglected.

Any corporation that does not invest in its plant, equipment, and workers is courting failure and collapse. Likewise, any country that does not invest in its infrastructure and in the training and education of its people is facing economic defeat and disaster.

As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I shall continue working to bring new jobs to West Virginia and to prepare for our state's future, as well as fighting for those programs and projects that will strengthen America competitively for future challenges.

December 12, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Have a Happy and Safe New Year's Holiday!

For most Americans, this New Year's Weekend will pass without drama--the usual football bowl games, family and friends enjoying warm fellowship, and then back to work on January 2.

But, unfortunately, again this year, a regrettable number of Americans will never be able to forget the tragedy that New Year's 1991 will become.

Those people will forever remember this New Year's holiday as the weekend on which they lost some loved one in a traffic death.

During New Year's Weekend 1990, 289 Americans lost their lives in traffic accidents.

New Year's Weekend 1989 tallied 317 automobile deaths. The four-day New Year's Weekend in 1988 accounted for 375 automobile deaths. New Year's 1991 brings another four-day holiday.

As in past years, alcohol will again be involved in more than 50 percent of this New Year's automobile accident

deaths.

The National Safety Council estimates that in the past ten years, more than a quarter-million Americans have lost their lives as a result of alcohol- and drug-related automobile accidents.

I hope that everyone will be increasingly aware this year of the need for automobile and highway safety.

On the road, drive carefully and defensively against the threat of drunken drivers in other automobiles.

Remember that an automobile, in the hands of a drunken driver, is a lethal weapon.

Last year, West Virginia reported only one New Year's automobile fatality.

The vigilance and responsibility that statistic connotes are commendable.

Would it not be wonderful if this New Year's Weekend, West Virginia reported zero automobile fatalities?

December 19, 1990



Byrd's-Eye View

By U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd

Hope for Peace in the New Year

Buoyed by the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, the emergence of new freedoms in Eastern Europe, and eased tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, the year 1990 began on one of the most hopeful notes for world peace in recent decades.

Unfortunately, the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq's Saddam Hussein brought a bitter close to the year's promising beginning, with the United States involved in a massive military buildup in Saudi Arabia and the threat of war once again looming on the horizon.

The invasion of Kuwait was an indefensible act of aggression. More than maintaining the flow of Persian Gulf oil is at stake in the current crisis. Saddam Hussein harbors grandiose designs for ruling and controlling the entire Middle East. More ominously, Saddam is reportedly within a few years--perhaps months--of developing his own nuclear weapons, as well.

With my support, the Senate last August approved a measure urging international sanctions against Iraq as a means of driving it out of Kuwait.

Subsequently, the United Nations Security Council voted to condemn the invasion and apply a sweeping economic embargo against Iraq.

Over recent months, the President has also ordered a buildup of roughly 430,000 American service personnel into the Persian Gulf to thwart and

reverse Saddam's occupation of his neighbor.

A number of young West Virginia men and women are currently serving in that force. Their spirit and their willingness to fulfill their duties in a harsh, pitiless environment are commendable and inspiring. I know that these young service people have the prayers and admiration of all West Virginians, as well as our hopes that they will all return safely from this mission.

Indeed, I do not believe that war is inevitable. Experts--including former generals and two former Pentagon Chiefs of Staff--have testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee that the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq are having an effect. Further, these experts agree that, if given time, these sanctions will weaken Iraq's economy and Saddam's military establishment.

The former Chiefs of Staff who testified before the Armed Services Committee agree that time is on our side in the Persian Gulf crisis.

At the beginning of another new year, let us hope that using the U.S. and allied troops deployed to Saudi Arabia will not be necessary--that diplomacy, economic pressure, and international patience will prevail, and that bloodshed can be avoided.

And let us hope that the year 1991 will be another year in which peace is strengthened and justice served around the world.