

and Education Trust; member, Pennsylvania State Finance Committee; served as chairman for the Purple Aster Awards Ball souvenir program book for 1995; member, national membership committee; member, national fund raiser committee; ex-officio delegate to the national convention; three-term past president, Ivy Lodge 251, of which he has served as vice president and as trustee.

Mr. President, I am extremely pleased to say that William Dante Bucci is a constituent of mine. Mr. Bucci has been, and will continue to be, a community leader and standard bearer for Italian Americans.●

THE OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to provisions in the recently approved omnibus appropriations bill dealing with electronic benefits transfer [EBT].

In the waning hours of the negotiations on the omnibus appropriations bill, legislative language was inserted—sections 664 and 665—providing for the delivery of EBT services by the Federal Government. In effect, the provision nullified an August 13, 1996, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision involving the procurement process in an EBT initiative under the direction of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

While I supported passage of the omnibus appropriations bill, I have very serious concerns with the impact of the EBT language and, as a result of these provisions becoming law, remain concerned with the direction of EBT. The financial ramifications and impact associated with providing benefits through EBT are enormous. The fact these provisions were added to the bill and became law with virtually no congressional oversight is extremely troublesome. I am uncomfortable with Congress overturning court decisions and ultimately directing multimillion dollar contracts without review. These provisions on EBT have not been reviewed in detail by the committees of jurisdiction nor have they been subject to hearings.

Mr. President, throughout my service in Congress, I have focused considerable legislative effort in the area of social policy, and I'm very pleased to have played a role in the development and direction of the landmark welfare policies that became law earlier this year. The efficiencies associated with delivering social service benefits through EBT have been an integral part of welfare reform discussions over the past 5 years. And with the enactment of the landmark welfare reform law, the need to develop a comprehensive EBT policy becomes all the more important.

If Congress is to better manage the delivery of Federal services and benefits, we must start with EBT. Throughout the remainder of this year and into the next Congress, I intend to address

this issue, not only with the Secretary of the Treasury, but also with the leadership of the committees of jurisdiction. It is imperative that Congress develop a comprehensive EBT policy with comment and direction from the Banking, Agriculture, Finance, and Governmental Affairs Committees, all who have major interests in this area.

Mr. President, with the recent passage of the omnibus appropriations bill, I wanted to take a moment of Senate business to express my very serious concerns with the language on EBT and the impact that this will have on the future delivery of social service benefits. I appreciate the attention of my colleagues today and encourage your interest and involvement.●

HONORING THE LAWRENCES ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Sherlie and Beulah Lawrence of Maplewood, MO, who, on November 9, 1996, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I took forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Sherlie and Beulah's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.●

HONORING THE MUNSONS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Ed and Marty Munson of Marshfield, MO, who, on November 11, 1996, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Ed and Marty's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.●

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, on Wednesday, September 25, 1996, one of my favorite Oregon institutions was honored by the President of the United States. Saturday Academy of Oregon received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. The award was presented to Kathryn Gail Whitney, executive director of the academy since 1983, in a ceremony in the Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building. I am pleased to add my congratulations to this deserving organization.

This award includes a \$10,000 grant and a Presidential commemorative certificate. It is given to individuals and institutions which have encouraged minorities, women, and persons with disabilities to earn degrees in science, mathematics, and engineering; 10 individuals and 6 institutions were honored this year, the first year in which these awards were presented.

Saturday Academy is a private, non-profit precollege educational program established in 1983, and based at the Oregon Graduate Institute of Science & Technology in the Portland, OR, metropolitan area. Four other Saturday Academy centers are located in Oregon. The academy enlists accomplished professionals from industry, higher education, and community agencies to create hands-on classes and apprenticeships for motivated 6th-through 12th-grade students. While the program focuses on science, math, and technology, instruction includes arts and humanities as well.

The academy began in 1983 with three classes: Materials science, electronics, and large computer systems. Even while growing rapidly, Saturday Academy has worked for inclusiveness. This is an important goal in science and math education—we need strategies to encourage greater participation of women and minorities. Saturday Academy has worked diligently to increase the enrollment of young women—it now has an even enrollment of both sexes.

Gail Whitney's arrival as executive director when the program was only months old, brought a change in recruitment strategy. Academy press releases began to stress the search for motivated students rather than gifted ones. The change has been significant. Experience shows that students who may not fit a school system's gifted criteria are designing electrical components or operating a business. A child who is quiet or reserved in the larger classroom may thrive in the hands-on environment of eight peers.

In 1983, the academy's roster listed 9 classes and 71 students. The following February, the figures increased to 19 classes and 200 students. The 10th anniversary year of the program, 1993, found 40 classes per term being offered. During the 1995-96 school year there

were 7,692 participants for a total of 214,000 instructional hours; 800 professionals were involved as instructors or mentors.

Mr. President, Gail Whitney and the founders of Saturday Academy represent one of the best models I have seen for cooperative private-public efforts to enhance science and math education. Meaningful reform in science and math education has been at the top of my priority list for many of my years in Congress. I am thrilled to see this deserving recognition for one of Oregon's finest efforts. ●

REFLECTIONS ON U.S. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

● Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I have had the opportunity to serve on the Committee on Agriculture since 1981. The agricultural community in Alabama and the Nation, while small in number, is a considerable part of our economy. In fact in Alabama, agriculture and forestry are the largest sectors of the economy.

Therefore, I felt compelled to serve on this committee. It has been extremely difficult for most of the newspaper reporters in Alabama to cover the action of this committee. I felt at times that my press secretary needed to give them a map to find the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing room. The issues are complicated and few reporters have an understanding of the basics of farm policy. As a general rule, this accounts for the sparsity of news stories about agriculture in Alabama and Washington newspapers.

In addition to farm programs, the committee had jurisdiction over a great number of rural development programs, rural electrification, and rural water programs that are an extremely important aspect that can improve the daily lives of the millions of people that live in rural areas of this Nation.

The agricultural community is considerably better off today than when I came to the Senate in 1979. During my years on the Agriculture Committee, we have been able to craft foreign policy which provides market stability and allows U.S. farmers to aggressively pursue international markets. At the same time, these farm programs have dramatically reduced the cost to the U.S. Treasury. And the most important part that is so often overlooked, American farms provide a stable supply of food for American families at a lower cost than any part of the world. Legislation passed by the Committee is often called farm bills. It would be more appropriately entitled Food Safety and Consumer Protection Legislation.

FARM BILLS

In 1981, I had my first experience with the Congress' major farm authorization bill. With this bill, Members who strongly supported agriculture sought to expand foreign markets for U.S. exports and to protect them from selective embargoes. But Alabama's

chief priority was the preservation of the peanut program. That year, the USDA and a number of Senators pushed for its elimination. But Alabama's farmers had just suffered 2 years of droughts, and they were already in a difficult situation. The program's proponents managed to push the program through the Agriculture Committee by a vote of 12 to 4. However, it was defeated on the floor of the Senate, and supporters had to work in the back rooms to devise the Heflin-Warner compromise. This effort succeeded. On the Senate floor, Senator NUNN credited me with the compromise:

*** I think the Senator from Alabama has worked longer and harder on the peanut program than anyone I know in this body. He has spent literally hundreds of hours working diligently to protect the program that is of vital interest to the State of Alabama and also the State of Georgia as well as other states.

*** I have been following his lead on this issue as well as many other farm issues, and I thank him for an exceptional job all the way through.

However, it was just that—a compromise—and I was not entirely pleased with the outcome. For instance, although the 1981 farm bill established farm-based poundage quotas, increased loan supports, and a cost-of-production price escalator, it technically eliminated the peanut allotment program.

During the farm bill debate, Alabama's delegation was also very concerned with improving soybean production and exports. Over the previous few years, the U.S. share of the world soybean export market had dropped from 90 percent to 70 percent. Despite this drop, U.S. soybean production had tripled, but only because planting had tripled. Crop yields had not improved, and export policies were lagging. In fact, if the situation did not change, the United States would only create a domestic surplus of soybeans. So I introduced a bill to create the Research Soybean Institute, which would examine ways to improve production, exporting, and marketing. The institute would also address problems such as the cyst nematode parasite—and other issues like it. These provisions became a part of the 1981 farm bill.

With Senator Melcher's help, we passed another amendment to the farm bill which required that imported meats be held to the same inspection standards as domestic meats. Specifically, we sought to prohibit horse and kangaroo meats from being sold as "beef." Clearly, this language had a dual purpose, to protect the interests of the cattle ranchers, and to ensure that consumers who bought hamburgers actually ate beef.

When the farm bill debate came to an end, I objected strongly to the administration's substitute bill. Although it retained the peanut compromise, the kangaroo and horse meat language, and the soybean institute, this bill has gone too far. This was the first attack on the farmer during my career; he had

become a victim of the USDA's fiscal austerity in the Republican administration's sometimes too broad attempts to cut domestic spending in the wrong places. I objected chiefly to the commodity provisions, especially loan levels and target price figures, but I voted for the bill anyway because I thought it was more important to have a 4-year bill than none at all.

But implementation of this farm bill proved nearly as difficult, especially for peanuts. The USDA tried to enact regulations to cut the peanut poundage quotas. Its cuts would only hurt the small quota holders who could not afford the overhead of production. Supporters contracted the USDA, and cited the provisions in the peanut language which required a fair and equitable system for quota reduction. Targeting the small farmer like this was—*** a misinterpretation of both the spirit and intent of the Congress if not an outright violation of the letter of the law itself. The USDA agreed to back off until it had received clarification of congressional intent.

The years following this farm bill also saw difficulties for the cotton program. In 1984, the administration sought a freeze in target prices, which it won. I blocked the bill when it came to the Senate floor, and I set conditions on this freeze. Specifically, I succeeded in setting the inventory carry-over trigger for the paid diversion of cotton at 2.7 rather than 4 million bales in 1985, increasing the rate from \$0.25 to \$0.30 per pound if this inventory reached 4.1 million bales, and \$0.35 if it reached 4.7 million bales. I also secured assurances for an extra \$500 million in CCC export credit loan guarantees for 1984, including \$100 million specifically for cotton, and \$2 billion in 1985. Other successes which came out of this bill included changes to the FmHA disaster loan programs, including increased funding and increased loan ceilings, eligibility expansion to counties adjacent to declared disaster areas, extension of application deadlines to 8 months, extension of repayments limits by 8 years, and scheduling of interest rates to their original level or the current prevailing rate, whichever was lower. Sometimes it's like dealing with a mule—you have to use a 2 by 4 to get its attention.

When the next farm bill around in 1985, we introduced the Southern Agriculture Act of 1985 preemptively to save the peanut and cotton programs. Specifically, it would increase peanut poundage quotas to the existing level for the national, edible market. I also sought to allow for double cropping, conservation tillage, and other ideas endemic to the South. But these programs represented only one small part of overall farm policy; the export-import programs were certainly as great. I had hoped that the United States might also be able to increase its share of foreign markets.

The House Agriculture Committee adopted my Southern Agriculture Act