

property disputes. This could include an assessment of the best institutional practices developed elsewhere, and development of the information and administrative systems necessary for effective implementation. Key to getting such a program started could be various sorts of training, advice regarding information systems, hardware and software, property surveying and registration systems, and assessing operational, management and staffing costs for administration.

U.S. advisers could help in the development of a plan for educating the Cuban public about the nature and basis of such a system. Such a program could require a significant commitment of effort and resources by a future Cuban government and the U.S. government. This effort could focus on gauging public opinion and identifying concerns and issues of potential stakeholders in the reconciliation process to ensure policy and legal solutions are responsive.

International financial institutions could develop and carry out programs with similar goals and along these lines.

Various agencies of the U.S. government may be available to provide such assistance. For instance, the FCSC may be able to offer technical assistance to a transition or democratic government in Cuba, as well as to interested NGOs and independent organizations, in the efforts to resolve property disputes. Such assistance could include advice on structuring a claims adjudication or arbitration mechanism in Cuba, assistance in devising procedures for collecting, hearing and disposing of the claims, and advice on principles to follow in resolving claims involving property that has been substantially altered subsequent to being taken.

ASSISTING U.S. NATIONALS WITHOUT CERTIFIED CLAIMS

Assisting a democratic or transition government in its efforts to establish an efficient property resolution mechanism will directly support the efforts of non-certified claimants to obtain compensation in Cuba. In addition, the U.S. government may provide various forms of support to U.S. nationals wishing to present claims to such a domestic Cuban body. Such support could include ensuring that interested persons obtain the necessary papers to file their claims; encouraging a transition or democratic government to resolve such claims promptly and effectively; monitoring the progress of claims settlement and, where necessary, offering creative solutions to difficult problems; and providing informal assistance to claimants seeking to understand the process and present a claim. In the case of Central and Eastern Europe, for instance, the U.S. government—principally through the special envoy for property claims in the region—has actively promoted the resolution of claims arising from both Nazi confiscations and Communist nationalizations.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

At this time, there are no areas requiring further legislative action regarding the resolution of property claims in Cuba prior to a change of government in Cuba. Once a transition or democratic government comes to power in Cuba, however, it will be important for the Administration and Congress to consult closely as conditions change in Cuba to assist in the resolution of property claims in Cuba in a manner that contributes both to the development of a strong bilateral relationship with a democratic Cuba and to Cuba's economic recovery.●

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SPECIAL OLYMPICS AS THEY HOLD THEIR FIFTH ANNUAL FALL GAMES

- Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today recognize the New Hampshire Special Olympics participants and volunteers as they hold their fifth annual fall games, their second largest event of the year. On October 26, more than 550 athletes, 200 coaches, and 300 New Hampshire volunteers will gather in Concord, NH to participate in the Special Olympics fall games. The games, which will be held on the beautiful campus of St. Paul's School, are certain to be met with enthusiasm and excitement by participants and volunteers alike. I would like to extend a special New Hampshire welcome to everyone who will partake in this special day.

Above all else, I would like to recognize the participants. All 550 athletes devoted countless hours and a tremendous amount of hard work and perseverance in preparation for this event. I truly admire their dedication and courage as they come forward to compete in these seven difficult sporting events. All of them are top-notch athletes and should be very proud of their efforts. May all the Olympians enjoy their day.

The New Hampshire Special Olympics fall games would not be possible without the help of so many volunteers who work behind the scenes. Volunteers are truly essential to the success of the fall Special Olympic games. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the New Hampshire volunteers who make this wonderful day possible.

I would also like to commend New Hampshire Special Olympic's executive director, Mike Quinn, and his capable staff. They have dedicated countless hours of their time to make the Special Olympics a success, and have allowed the residents of New Hampshire to come out and show their Granite State spirit.

Without the support and contributions of a number of sponsors, the New Hampshire Special Olympics would not be able to hold their fall games. Among these supporters are St. Paul's School, the National Guard, Derryfield School, Merrimack County Savings Bank, AMR/Chaulk, Ambulance Services, and many more. Once again, I extend my thanks to those who made a contribution to this phenomenal program.

May the fifth annual fall games be a success and continue to flourish in the future. I wish all the Olympians the very best as they compete in the New Hampshire fall games. We are all very proud of you.●

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE ALIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today pay tribute to the Alliance for the

Mentally Ill of New Hampshire on the occasion of their 17th Annual Conference and Membership Meeting. This educational conference is being held on October 26 at Rundlett School in Concord, NH. Those participating will have an excellent opportunity to attend workshops, view informative displays, and talk to alliance members. I congratulate all the alliance volunteers for hosting this important conference and extend a special welcome to those who will be in attendance.

The New Hampshire Alliance for the Mentally Ill strives to better the lives of those with mental illnesses or serious emotional disorders, promote the rights of the mentally ill, and educate the public about mental illness. Their goals are to highlight numerous services available to the mentally ill, especially focusing on youngsters and seniors.

I commend the New Hampshire Alliance for the Mentally Ill for their hard work and dedication to increasing the level of awareness of mental illness. Their conference will provide an excellent opportunity for those attending to learn more about the alliance and their objectives. Again, I would like to welcome all the participants who are attending this educational conference and congratulate those who have worked so hard to organize the conference.●

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NATURE CONSERVANCY CHAPTER FOR RECEIVING THE NATIONAL PROGRAM PROGRESS AWARD

- Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today pay tribute to New Hampshire's Nature Conservancy for receiving the National Program Progress Award. The New Hampshire chapter was presented with this award, one of the Nature Conservancy's highest honors, at the Nature Conservancy's National Annual Trustees Meeting on September 30.

The New Hampshire chapter has earned this award for their outstanding work in protecting Sheldrick Forest, a 227-acre old-growth forest located in Wilton, NH. The conservancy launched a multifaceted grassroots campaign to save the forest from development. Through its campaign the conservancy raised the property's purchasing price to \$550,000. The New Hampshire chapter also purchased Sheldrick Forest, making it the conservancy's 17th preserve in the State. This was an outstanding accomplishment.

In addition to the conservancy's dedicated actions to save Sheldrick Forest its members were recognized for their efforts to protect the Great Bay estuary system, for supporting the Maquipucuna Cloud Forest Reserve in Ecuador, and for creating the Mount Teneriffe preserve in Milton, which is home to a federally listed endangered orchid species. The New Hampshire Nature Conservancy chapter has worked hard to preserve New Hampshire's

beautiful environment. The conservancy's members should be proud of this distinguished award and their great success in preservation that it celebrates.

A national awards committee, drawn from among the Nature Conservancy's 50 State chapters, its 21 programs in Latin America, and its offices on the Pacific Rim and in Indonesia, selected the New Hampshire Chapter for the National Program Progress Award. The award recognizes a conservancy chapter that has made the greatest progress during the past year in building its overall program, and achieving the conservancy's mission of protecting land that harbors rare and endangered plants, animals, and ecosystems.

At the Nature Conservancy's National Annual Trustees Meeting last month, the group's president and CEO, John Sawhill, spoke about the dedication and inspiration of the New Hampshire chapter by saying, "I was amazed that so many people from all walks of life were involved in raising the money for this project and how the local community embraced our effort to save the forest * * * I believe Sheldrick Forest can serve as an inspiration to us all." The New Hampshire chapter sets an excellent example for environmental preservation in New Hampshire and for other parts of our country.

The New Hampshire chapter has certainly made our State very proud of their efforts. Congratulations to the New Hampshire Nature Conservancy on this distinguished award. May they continue to protect and preserve our beautiful New Hampshire's forests.●

THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

• Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, over the years, we have participated in many efforts to assist the people of Alabama and the Nation in the area of health care, particularly in insuring adequate funding for biomedical research programs. The various budget battles to ensure that cancer research is maintained at the highest effective level became an annual effort during my tenure as a U.S. Senator.

During the mid-1980's, it became necessary for me to author several amendments to various spending bills in order for important cancer research to be adequately conducted.

Cancer is a disease that knows no class, income levels, lifestyle, race, or sex. It can strike anyone at any time, as evidenced by studies estimating that almost 1 million Americans develop this deadly disease annually.

In Alabama, important research through grants from the National Institutes of Health [NIH] is being carried on at 13 universities, hospitals, and research institutes. Research particularly crucial to our efforts to conquer cancer is being done at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, the Southern Research Institute in Bir-

mingham, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. These institutions are well known for their important contributions to cancer research.

The cancer research community throughout America, and the world, knows that one of the true flagships of cancer research is the Cancer Core Center at UAB, which has been listed among the three top U.S. centers for cancer research. It is one of the first centers recognized by the National Cancer Institute, and has experienced remarkable growth. In addition, it has developed some of the most sophisticated resources for basic science and clinical care in the southeast, and it is now a regional, national, and international resource for patient care and research.

Through the National Institutes of Health, we have been successful in getting funds to establish grants for sickle cell centers at UAB, and the University of South Alabama. Sickle cells, or sickle cell anemia, is predominately an inherited, chronic blood disease where the red blood cells become crescent shaped and function abnormally. This is how it got its name. The pains from this disease are due to aggregations of sickle cells causing a temporary blockage of the small blood vessels. These cells are subject to early destruction in the circulation, causing a chronic anemia. Although it occurs primarily in people of African heritage, with one out of 400 African Americans affected, it also occurs in persons from Mediterranean and other countries. A clinical alert issued by health care professionals in January 1995 by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institutes announced an effective treatment of an anticancer drug which showed a remarkable reduction with regard to the complications of this disease.

In addition, other biomedical research is being conducted at Alabama A&M University, and Tuskegee University Veterinary Medicine program. Both these historical black universities have received funds for biomedical, as well as agriculture research. This includes my sponsorship of the amendment to the farm bill, providing \$50 million to legislation involving the 1890 land grant colleges, where Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University were the top beneficiaries.

In the mid-1980's, the Marshall Space Flight Center and the University of Alabama at Birmingham [UAB] made a major contribution to our Nation's cancer research efforts by managing a program for protein crystal growth experiments on the space shuttle. For years, UAB has been a world leader in this type of research, with their knowledge having been crucial in the development of new drugs to treat critical illnesses. I feel considerable pride that I changed a working relationship between UAB and Marshall Space Flight Center. The restrictions on gravity, however, created difficulties in growing protein crystals large enough for

detailed study. In space, where there is no gravity, it was discovered that these crystals can be grown many times larger than on Earth, thus giving researchers samples large enough for accurate atomic characterization.

During my years in the Senate, I have been an ardent believer of our space program. I feel this contribution by Marshall Space Flight Center, and UAB is indicative of the benefits society can reap from a successful space program. Likewise, I have helped in restoring funds for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute [NHLBI] of the National Institutes of Health. Discussions have been held with Dr. Claude Lenfant, Director of NHLBI, on many occasions regarding the research at UAB in the area of cardiology, led by Dr. Gerald Pohost. Both Dr. Lenfant and I have had the distinction of testifying before this Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education and Related Agencies of the Senate Appropriations Committee, regarding this research.

At UAB, the cardiology division is one of the leaders in the Nation in research and teaching in clinical diagnosis and treatment. With areas of special expertise in the treatment of sudden death, interventional cardiology, cardiac transplants, and magnetic resonance imaging, the division continues to set the course for the future in basic and clinical research, and for the treatment of all forms of cardiovascular disease.

Over the years, I have strongly supported appropriations for the National Institutes of Health. My testimony before the subcommittee focused primarily on the critical importance of funding for the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Research Resources [NCRR], and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. In my opinion, NCRR never received the attention it deserved.

I was convinced that the biomedical research technology program at the University of Alabama's center was outstanding. It involves a unique, high-field magnetic resource image. This device has the potential to study the biomedical basis of human diseases without biopsy. These magnetic resonance methods have the capacity to determine tissue viability, as well as to examine biochemical and metabolic processes underlying heart disease, transplantation, rejection, and other common cardiac maladies.

On several occasions, I visited the National Institutes of Health to discuss their programs and goals. I was most impressed with the competency and quality of their operations. NIH is responsible for placing the United States in a position of preeminence in biomedical research and biotechnology. During my tenure in the Senate, it was determined that we could not let this prime example of excellence deteriorate, especially when so many advances are being realized. Supporting the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute