

all, new provisions have been introduced which will help to make sure that the Convention is properly implemented.

When these and other measures are added together they make an impressive package that should make a significant contribution to safety and pollution prevention in the years to come. But I think we need something more.

IMO's standards have been so widely adopted that they affect virtually every ship in the world. Therefore, in theory, the casualty and pollution rates of flag States should be roughly the same but in actual practice they vary enormously. That can only be because IMO regulations are put into effect differently from country to country. The measures I have just outlined will help to even out some of these differences, but they will only really succeed if everybody involved in shipping wants them to.

That sounds simple enough. Surely everybody is interested in safety and the prevention of pollution and will do what they can to promote them? To a certain degree perhaps they are—but the degree of commitment seems to vary considerably. The majority of shipowners accept their responsibilities and conduct their operations with integrity at the highest level.

Some others quite deliberately move their ships to different trading routes if Governments introduce stricter inspections and controls: they would rather risk losing the ship and those on board than to undertake and pay for the cost of carrying out the repairs they know to be necessary. Some Governments are also quite happy to take the fees for registering ships under their flag, but fail to ensure that safety and environmental standards are enforced.

The idea that a ship would willingly be sent to sea in an unsafe condition and pose a danger to its crew is difficult to believe and yet it does happen.

The reasons for this are partly historical. We have become so used to the risks involved in seafaring that we have come to see them as a cost that has to be paid, a price which is exacted for challenging the wrath of the oceans. We must change this attitude, this passive acceptance of the inevitability of disaster. When a ship sinks we should all feel a sense of loss and failure, because accidents are not inevitable—they can and should be prevented.

The actions taken by IMO during the last few years will undoubtedly help to improve safety and thereby save lives, but they will have an even more dramatic effect if they help to change the culture of all those engaged in shipping and make safety not just a vague aspiration but a part of every day living, so that it comes as second nature. This is a clear, precise target—a target that is within our grasp if we continue to put our minds and energies to the task.

Fifty years ago, when the United Nations was being planned, few people believed that there would ever be an effective international organization devoted to shipping safety. But, in the same spirit that led to the founding of the United Nations, IMO itself was born. The vision which led to this has been realized and seafarers of the world have benefitted as a result.

However, casualties still do occur and much remains to be done by IMO, by its Member Governments, by the shipping industry and by the seafarers who crew the world's ships, in fact, by all of us involved in shipping. The waters are not uncharted, the course is known, the destination is clear. It is up to us to conduct the voyage in such a way that our objective of maximum safety is in fact realized.●

SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind for 125 years of service to students with disabilities in my State.

On this very day, September 28 in 1870 the doors of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind were first opened in the small community of Romney, WV. At that time, 25 deaf and 5 blind children were enrolled that first year in classes in a modest facility. Since that time, literally thousands of men and women of all ages with hearing and/or visual disabilities have passed through the hallowed halls of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Today, hundreds of individuals receive a variety of services through programs offered by these schools—programs like Be a Star, which earned national recognition in the 1993-94 school year as a model for hearing and visually impaired youth as volunteers. People assume that students with disabilities are the recipients of community service initiatives but through Romney's program, the handicapped students were able to get involved in community service projects and make their own personal contributions to the local community which has supported the institution for more than a century. Currently during the 1994-95 school year, the institution is implementing the Stars for Others Program. The goal, once again, is to let students be the leaders they can be in their respective communities. The school expects this year to log over 5,000 hours of staff and student volunteer hours of public service, and I am quite proud of this initiative.

In addition to the regular educational programs offered on campus, over 100 preschoolers and their families receive services through special outreach programs. More than 450 students with visual disabilities throughout our State receive Braille and large print materials through the Instructional Resource Center. Over 250 individuals receive talking books through a loan program coordinated by the Library of Congress. Captioned films are made available through the Captioned Film Depository. Each year, many children with hearing and/or visual disabilities participate in the Preschool Diagnostic and Evaluation Program and in the summer enrichment programs.

This is a tremendous institution striving to improve its services and enhance the quality of life for students with disabilities so that they can live as independently as possible. The efforts made daily by every administrator, every teacher, every individual associated with the West Virginia Schools for the Blind and the Deaf have opened many doors to people with disabilities, and given them opportunities for jobs and freedom that they may not

have otherwise. The schools have stressed that a physical impediment should not be a wall that blocks students from the life, but that they too can overcome challenges and play a vital role in our society. I share this view and am proud of the tremendous progress made by our society over time in recognizing the potential of individuals with disabilities. This institution has contributed a great deal to helping ensure that every American, regardless of disability, should have the chance to be happy, productive members of our society.

The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind make a very real difference in the lives of students and their families. With great pride, and on behalf of all of West Virginia, I send my warmest congratulations on such a special anniversary, as well as best wishes for more years of service.●

APPOINTMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1928a-1928d, as amended, appoints the following Senators as Members of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly fall meeting during the first session of the 104th Congress, to be held in Turin, Italy, October 5-9, 1995: The Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN; the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY; the Senator from Alaska, Mr. MURKOWSKI; the Senator from Washington, Mr. GORTON; and the Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA.

TRUTH IN LENDING ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2399 just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2399) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to clarify the intent of such act and to reduce burdensome regulatory requirements on creditors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for the Truth in Lending Act Amendments of 1995. Our colleagues in the House recently passed this legislation. It is the product of bipartisan cooperation between the Senate and the House. The broad bipartisan support that this bill has attracted is evidence of the urgency of the situation that it addresses. As chairman of the Banking Committee, I believe that immediate action