national parks and fosters conflicts of interest between the Department of the Interior and potential sponsors. Importantly, it would fail to contribute significantly to critical funding needs of the National Parks System.

I will object to consideration of the conference report because I don't believe we should consider such a controversial provision under procedures that do not provide for the debate and amendment of such objectionable provisions.●

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am a strong supporter of the programs sponsored by the National Endowment for Democracy and the four core groups that are part of the endowment family. For a very modest investment from the U.S. Government, this nongovernment organization has accomplished remarkable achievements in promoting democratic institutions, advancing the norms of a civil society, and furthering the principle and practice of market economics abroad. NED has contributed significantly to the foreign policy goals of the United States.

It is exciting to chronicle the rich and positive role the NED has played in the promotion of American political values since its inception in 1983. It has been helpful in winding down the cold war in Eastern and Central Europe, in facilitating democratic transition, growth and consolidation in Asia and Latin America, and in supporting proponents of human rights and freedom in all geographic regions of the globe and in more than 90 countries.

Rather than listing the additional successes of NED, I ask that a statement entitled ''The United States Needs The National Endowment for Democracy'' be inserted in the RECORD for all Members to read. The statement was drafted by the Forum for International Policy whose president is Brent Scowcroft and whose chairman is Larry Eagleburger. They, along with virtually every individual who served in the positions of National Security Advisor and Secretary of State in every administration since 1983 have endorsed the NED's work and support its full funding. I ask all Members to read this statement carefully.

The material follows:

THE UNITED STATES NEEDS THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

The United States' only international political foundation, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), is under threat. Establishment in 1983, the Endowment operates openly and independently to support individuals, groups and institutions who are working to promote and consolidate democracy in their own countries. Although it is federally funded and subject to Congressional oversight, NED is not a government agency. An independent, non-partisan board of directors sets its policies and strategies. The Endowment channels its support directly to grantees or through four core institutes: the Center for International Private Enterprise, the International Republican Institute, the Free Trade Union Institute, and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. They, too, are independent of any government direction. The House of Representatives has approved an appropriation for fiscal 1997 of $30 million, reflecting no increase over the current level. The Senate Appropriations Committee, however, has recommended that funding be eliminated entirely on the grounds that the Endowment is a Cold War institution which has outlived its usefulness. That is a short-sighted judgment and should be reversed.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan called for a non-governmental institution along the lines of political foundations in other Western democracies. The National Endowment for Democracy was created to assist the transition to modern, pluralistic, particularly systems in other countries within the context of their own individual histories, cultures and traditions. The United States has fundamental and enduring interests in the promotion of American political values and ensuring the spread of pluralism, freedom and democracy throughout the world. Pursuit of those interests is no less important today than it was at the height of the Cold War. Our own national security and economic prosperity are no less at stake. NED and its core institutes are uniquely able to accomplish this task by the employment of non-governmental structures untainted by direct association with the U.S. Government.

At the official level, our choice of instruments to pursue democracy support strategies is limited. The Agency for International Development's (AID) focussed programs have been effective, but they reflect the immediate priorities of any administration in office (or of actively interested members of Congress). Because of the way they are funded and operated, the emphasis of AID programs is too often on short to medium-term results. They are managed by federal employees in accord with bureaucratic rules and regulations. AID's ''official'' programs require us to work with host governments or at least with their tacit acceptance. The State Department, the United States Information Agency, and other federal agencies as well, promote democracy, but they, too, must operate within limits and norms set for official government representatives in foreign lands. NED and its institutes, however, are able to use their resources to nurture the development of grass roots democratic movements and long-term processes which must grow from within. NED operates where there is no official U.S. presence and it is not obligated to work through official channels. NED is not driven by the short-term imperatives which often, quite legitimately, drive government decisions and actions.

The Endowment's non-governmental approach has worked. Through its low-cost programs NED does openly and aboveboard what our government is not able to do: it supports monitoring of elections, conferences and exchanges in Russia on party organization, polling methods, publicity and the nuts and bolts of open elections which have been credited with contributing to the success of democratic forces in the recent elections. In the Central Asian Republics it has funded civic education centers. In Slovakia it supports teacher-training workshops to introduce citizenship education into primary and secondary schools. In Bosnia it has kept an important source of news alive. It helps sustain Burma's hard-pressed democratic movement. It supported grass roots education for Palestinian voters. In Mexico it aids a coalition that focuses on electoral reform, political participation and accountability of public officials. NED even funds initiatives to strengthen democracy and human rights movements in Cuba. In many instances, however, despite free elections and outward signs of change, the transition to more deeply-rooted, stable democracy is incomplete or even at risk. It is in our interest to sustain NED's efforts because today's initiatives are no less important than those of the past.

Signs that America is prepared to disengage from the important work of fostering democracy are unsettling to our allies and do not serve our national interests. The National Endowment for Democracy has proven itself to be a cost effective, long-term investment in America's security. It would be a mistake to eliminate it. The Senate should restore funding for the National Endowment for Democracy as approved by the House.●

THE FORGOTTEN INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE LATIN AMERICANS

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the most shameful episodes in our Nation's history was the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. In response, although belatedly, Congress enacted in 1988 the law providing reparations to those who were uprooted and sent to internment camps.

There is another group of people who suffered the same injustice, but are ineligible for redress under the law. As detailed in a recent article in the Los Angeles Times, more than 2,200 Japanese Latin Americans were taken from their homes in 13 countries, mostly from Peru, and brought to the United States to be detained. Most spent the war in a camp in rural Texas, and some were even held until 1948. The U.S. Government never officially acknowledged a reason for this policy. Since the Japanese Latin Americans were not legal residents of the United States at the time of their internment, they are not eligible for an apology or reparations. Clearly, this injustice demands a remedy.

Of those who were forcibly brought to the United States, only 200 were allowed to return to Latin America. Others returned to Japan, while many stayed in the United States and eventually became citizens. Some 300 applications by Latin American Japanese for redress under the 1988 law have been denied because they were not legal residents before the law's June 1946 cutoff date.

The article gives an account of a journey of a detention ship that in 1944 was steaming from South America to the United States escorted by destroyers and submarines. In the year of the invasion of Normandy, not to mention the war in the Pacific, it is astounding that our Nation saw fit to devote military resources to this shameful and questionably legal undertaking.

I have written Senator INOUYE, who authored the 1988 reparations bill, to see if something can be done. While I will not be in the Senate next year, I hope that my colleagues will consider legislation in the next Congress to provide payments to family members of the Japanese Latin American who were detained. After so many years, that would be the right thing to do.●