

As a veteran of the Korean war, I was disappointed to learn—the day after the defense authorization conference report was approved by the Senate—that the provision we included in our bill to commemorate this historic event was inadequate. The conferees acted in good faith to authorize a program worthy of the event. Unfortunately, new information came to light after the conclusion of our conference which revealed that the \$100,000 we had authorized would not be sufficient.

In an effort to correct this oversight, at my request Senator THURMOND introduced S. 1507, a bill making technical corrections to the defense authorization bill, to provide \$1 million for the Korean war celebration. That bill passed the Senate last evening, and the House has indicated that it will pass this legislation before the end of the current session.

While I understand that this will not be enough to fund the entire Korean war commemoration program, it will solve the immediate problem for fiscal year 1998.

I pledge to my fellow Korean war veterans that I will work with the Department of the Army in the coming fiscal years to ensure that adequate funding is provided by the Congress to fund a commemoration that is worthy of the brave men and women who served so well on the battlefields of Korea.

#### NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, in the spring, I was asked by the Laymen's National Bible Association to serve as a congressional cochairman for National Bible Week. The goal of the association is to encourage the reading and study of the Bible. I was pleased to agree to do this, and to join the association in announcing that November 23 through 30 of this year has been designated as National Bible Week. As we expect to adjourn before then, I take this opportunity to offer my support for the association's efforts.

This book, the "Good Book," has come down to us through the faithful over the centuries. The bedrock of religion for Jews and Christians, it is a boundless source of comfort, hope, action, love, guidance, and inquiry. Some of the most beautiful expressions of human experience, belief and thought are found in the Bible, flowing from the magnificence and grace of God.

Every day that the Senate is in session, our fine Chaplain, or his designee, offers a prayer drawn from the lessons in the Bible. This is a solemn, wonderful, reliable moment in the daily routine. Reading the book itself is the same.●

#### RECOGNITION OF IDAHO VPP SITES

• Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise to commend six industrial sites in my State that have received recogni-

tion by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Programs, known also as VPP.

The VPP is a cooperative organization between government and industry that was established in 1982 to emphasize and encourage safety, health, and environmental programs among labor, management, and government. This is done by recognizing certain industrial sites that have either achieved, or are making significant strides toward, excellence in worker safety and health protection. Mr. President, I am proud to say that six sites in Idaho have been recognized by the VPP.

The following sites, all in Soda Springs, IA, have been awarded highest recognition as star sites: the Agrum Conda Phosphate Operations; the J.R. Simplot Company's Conda Pump Station; the Kerr-McGee Corporation's Vanadium Facility; and Solutia, Inc.

In addition to these star sites, I would like to commend two additional industrial sites in Idaho, both run by Potlatch Corp., that have achieved recognition as Merit Sites: Jaype Plywood, in Pierce, ID; and Potlatch Corp.'s Consumer Products Division, in Lewiston. Mr. President, both of these Potlatch sites have employees who are represented by unions. Jaype Plywood workers belong to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local W0358, and Potlatch's Consumer Products Division employees are represented by the United Paperworkers International Union, Locals 608 and 712, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 73. I would like to say, in regard to these Potlatch sites being recognized by the VPP, that the cooperation that has been exhibited between organized labor and management represents, in my mind, the best way to achieve a truly productive working environment by avoiding division and intrusive government regulation that frequently is counterproductive to the best interests of both the laborers and management.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate all of these industrial sites in Idaho for their efforts. VPP recognizes the cooperation of labor and management, working in conjunction with the government, to create a safe and healthy work environment for all who work at the sites. This spirit of cooperation has clearly achieved results, and as a U.S. Senator from Idaho, I would like to say again that I am very proud of the six sites in my State that have been recognized by the VPP.●

#### INDIAN DISTRIBUTION JUDGMENT FUND BILL

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that H.R. 1604, the Indian distribution judgment fund bill, passed the Senate yesterday. This bill cleared the Senate with bipartisan support, including my Michigan colleague, Senator SPENCER ABRAHAM. I would like to

thank my colleague in the House, Representative DALE KILDEE, for introducing this bill. I believe that H.R. 1604 will pass the House in the next few days and will then be signed into law by the President.

H.R. 1604 is a very important piece of legislation for several Michigan tribes. To fully understand this bill, it is necessary to understand Michigan history. In the Treaty of 1836, the Chippewa and Ottawa Indians of Michigan ceded over 12 million acres of land in Michigan to the Federal Government. Approximately 15 cents per acre was given to the tribes as compensation for this land.

In 1946, the U.S. Congress established the Indian Claims Commission, a body created to redress some of the worst injustices of the U.S. Government/Indian Nation treaty era. The Indian Claims Commission determined that the value of the land ceded by the Michigan tribes was 90 cents an acre, not 15 cents. In 1972, Congress appropriated \$10 million as a final settlement for the land, but the money could not be distributed until the tribes reached an agreement on how the funds would be distributed. This amount has now grown to over \$70 million.

Over the last few years, the tribes have worked among themselves to come to an agreement as to the means of distributing the funds. H.R. 1604 is the result of this consensus between the parties.

I would like to commend the tribal leaders for coming together to negotiate this agreement. It has taken many years and much negotiating. Tribal elder, Arthur LeBlanc, of the Bay Mills Indian Community, testified before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee on November 3, 1997, on behalf of H.R. 1604. Mr. LeBlanc, and other tribal members, will now be compensated for a settlement claim that has taken 25 years to fully resolve.

In closing, I offer my strong support for H.R. 1604 and am hopeful that it will pass the House quickly and that the tribes will receive compensation for their land as soon as possible.●

#### PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1997

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I commend my colleagues in the House of Representatives for their recent passage of H.R. 1534, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act. This long overdue legislation will provide a much needed boost to the thousands of homeowners, small landowners, farmers, and others who for years have had their constitutional rights compromised.

For too long, these landowners have seen their constitutionally guaranteed property rights eroded by expanding Government regulations. I believe the taking or restriction of the use of private property without due process and just compensation is directly contrary to our Constitution.

This predicament that too many private property owners find themselves