

bear that in mind as we begin debate on the budget for the coming fiscal year.●

#### 20TH ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE BENEFIT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the 20th Annual "Respect Life" Benefit presented by the Knights to Columbus, Michigan State Council and the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund.

The benefit is a very important pro-life event for Michigan. It will take place on the evening of Thursday, March 26, 1998 at the Burton Manor in Livonia, Michigan and is expected to attract over one thousand people. When a large group like this gathers to celebrate the gift of life it sends a great message. In light of the current struggle in our nation regarding partial birth abortion there could not be a more urgent time for a gathering like this one.

Another way in which those of us who respect the sanctity of life can send a message is through media channels. Michigan will lead the way in the pro-life movement through a major media campaign. The 1998 Media Campaign, of which the proceeds will go, will be showcased at the event. In addition, Dr. Alan Keyes will be the featured speaker for the evening.

The efforts of Richard F. McCloy, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, Michigan State Council, and Barbara Listing, President, Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund are truly commendable. They have generously devoted their time and efforts, not only to this event but to a very worthy cause. I extend my best wishes for both a very successful event and Media Campaign.●

#### CURBING TOBACCO USE IN THE THIRD WORLD

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, public and private institutions all across the United States have invested enormous amounts of time and money to educate Americans about the dangers from smoking, and to curb tobacco advertising especially that targets minors. Nationwide campaigns have raised awareness about the health and economic costs of cigarettes. Lawmakers have focused on holding the tobacco companies responsible for the incalculable harm their products, and their decades of lies, have done to our society. Parents, schools and local governments have joined together to keep children from starting to use tobacco.

The attention has paid off, although their is much more that needs to be done. Laws that seek to protect children from tobacco advertising have become stricter, warning labels on cigarette packaging contain stronger language, the price of cigarettes has gone up, and regulations on second-hand smoke have become broader and more inclusive. The number of stories in the

media about the tobacco industry and the horrors of lung cancer and emphysema are an indication of how far we have come.

What has been sorely lacking, however, is the same kind of attention on the effects of tobacco use in developing nations where an estimated 800 million people smoke and the consumption of cigarettes is rising steadily. As the market for tobacco products in the US declines, tobacco companies are aggressively pursuing these lucrative foreign markets. It is projected that adult consumption of cigarettes in the developing countries will exceed that in the industrialized countries within the next decade. These figures do not even take into account that in many developing countries the number of people under eighteen—those most susceptible to tobacco advertising and most inclined to start smoking—is more than fifty percent of the population. In a matter of years, tobacco will be a leading cause of death in countries whose poor healthcare systems cannot possibly care for them.

Why should this matter to us? Each year, we provide billions of dollars in foreign aid to improve the lives of people overseas. We spend tens of millions of dollars to support foreign health programs. It is absurd that in the same countries where we are spending precious American tax dollars to try to save lives, American tobacco companies are pushing their deadly products.

Until recently, it was even worse than that. According to a February 16, 1998 "New York Times" article, there has been a long history of collaboration between the US Government and tobacco companies to introduce American cigarettes into foreign markets and to fight anti-smoking regulations overseas. It is reported that in 1992 the US Government and the tobacco companies worked hand-in-hand against an effort by Thai authorities to require tobacco companies to disclose the ingredients in their cigarettes.

Fortunately, the US Government is finally catching up with the times. In February, the State Department directed our embassies and foreign commercial offices to stop promoting the sale or export of American tobacco products. They were also told to stop trying to block restrictions from being placed on these products.

Mr. President, the dangers of smoking have been established and Americans are responding by taking steps to curb their tobacco consumption. As our efforts against tobacco in the US pay off, we must also help the developing countries curb their own consumption. One step in the right direction is the Healthy Kids Act, of which I am a co-sponsor. Introduced by Senator CONRAD on February 12, 1998, the Act contains a provision to establish the "American Center on Global Health and Tobacco" to assist other countries curb tobacco use.

In addition, on July 23, 1997 Senator LAUTENBERG introduced the Worldwide

Tobacco Disclosure Act. It would subject exported cigarettes to the same restrictions on labeling that apply to the sale and distribution of cigarettes in the United States and prevent U.S. Government officials from working against other countries' restrictions on tobacco. We should do everything we can to try to protect the people in those countries from the dangers of tobacco, as we are protecting ourselves. Hundreds of millions of lives, and billions of dollars that could otherwise be used to educate, house and employ people, are at stake.●

#### COMMEMORATING THE RESTORATION OF LITHUANIA'S INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on this day, the eighth anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence, I would like to pay tribute to the perseverance and sacrifices of the Lithuanian people which enable them to achieve the freedom which they now enjoy.

On March 11, 1990, the newly elected Lithuanian Parliament, fulfilling its election mandate from the people of Lithuania, declared the restoration of Lithuania's independence and the establishment of a democratic state.

The people of Lithuania endured a 51-year foreign occupation which began as a result of the infamous Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939. During that time the people of Lithuania courageously resisted the imposed communist dictatorship and cultural genocide of this foreign occupation.

During this time, the people of Lithuania were able to mobilize and sustain a non-violent movement for social and political change which came to be known as Sajudis.

On February 24, 1990 Sajudis, the people's movement, through citizen action guaranteed a peaceful transition to independence and democracy by fully participating in the first democratic elections in Lithuania in more than half a century.

In January 1991, ten months after this restoration of independence, the people and government of Lithuania withstood a bloody and lethal assault against their democratic institutions by foreign troops. Lithuania's successful restoration of democracy and independence is remarkable for its use of non-violent resistance to an oppressive regime.

On September 17, 1991, Lithuania became a member of the United Nations and is a signatory to a number of its organizations and other international agreements. It also is a member of the Organization and Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the Council of Europe. Lithuania is an associate member of the EU and has applied for NATO membership and is currently negotiating for membership in the WTO, OECD and other Western organizations.