

was important: Because MBE/WBEs are more likely to be awarded subcontracts than prime contracts, MBEs/WBEs may appear to be underutilized when the focus remains on prime contractor data. Furthermore, although some studies did include calculations based on the number of contracts, all but two based their determination of disparities on only the dollar amounts of the contracts. Because MBEs/WBEs tend to be smaller than non-MBEs/WBEs, they often are unable to perform on larger contracts. Therefore, it would appear that they were awarded a disproportionately smaller amount of contract dollars. (p. 32) (see data on contracting awards on p. 51)

GAO's conclusion here is significant because the USDOT regulations measure utilization only in dollars, not contracts, and annual goals are set based on total dollars rather than on the DBE share of subcontracting dollars.

Finally GAO notes that although USDOT advised recipients that disparity studies should be "reliable," USDOT provided no guidance on what would be a reliable study. GAO concluded that: USDOT's guidance does not, for example, caution against using studies that contain the types of data and methodological problems that we identified above. Without explicit guidance on what makes a disparity study reliable, states and transit authorities risk using studies that may not provide accurate information in setting DBE goals. (p. 32)

GAO's finding about the unreliability of disparity studies is consistent with the findings of every court that has examined the merits of such studies after discovery and trial.

3. DISCONTINUING PROGRAMS

One of the arguments used in the TEA-21 debates and defendant's trial briefs is the assertion, often anecdotal, that without goals, DBE participation would decline precipitously. The difficulty with that assertion, even if true, is that the decline in DBE participation may be the result of previous overutilization caused by goals set too high or because when a program is struck down DBEs may have little incentive to seek or maintain certification.

But is the basic assertion true? It turned out that 10 of 12 recipients with discontinued programs did not know what the DBE participation result was. For instance, although Michigan was cited by DBE proponents in the TEA-21 debate as an example of DBE utilization decline after Michigan Road Builders Assn. v. Millikin (1987) struck down the state highway MBE program, GAO reports: Michigan could not provide us with minority and women owned business participation data in state highway contracting for the years immediately before and after it discontinued its program. Furthermore, Michigan officials stated that the analysis showing the decline that is often cited was a one-time-only analysis and that analysis is no longer available. Consequently we can not verify the number cited during the debate (p.37)

4. MISSING INFORMATION

Much of the above criticisms GAO cast in terms of a lack of information, but there were other key items missing as well. GAO had planned to survey all transit authorities receiving federal funds, but FTA does not have a complete list. (p. 74) When the 83 state and transit recipients were surveyed, only 40% or less of the respondents could report the gross revenues of the DBEs that won contracts. Less than 25% of the respondents could report the gross revenues of the DBEs that did not win contracts. (pp. 52-55) Only about a third of the agencies could report data on the personal net worth of DBE owners, although TEA-21 regulations require

that such owners net worth not exceed \$750,000.

Only a handful of respondents could report data on the gross revenues or owner net worth characteristics of non-DBE firms. (p. 64) While 79 respondents could report data about subcontracts awarded DBEs, only 28 respondents could report similar data for non-DBEs. That means that most respondents did not regard comparing DBE and non-DBE subcontractor utilization relevant in setting goals or in determining whether discrimination exists.

Nor are respondents acquiring relevant information: 98.8% have not conducted any study determining if awarding prime or sub contracts to DBEs affects contract costs; 67.5% no study on discrimination against DBE firms; 84.2% no study of discrimination against DBEs by financial credit, insurance or bond markets; 79.5% no study of factors making it difficult for DBEs to compete; and 92.8% no study on the impact of the DBE program on competition and the creation of jobs. (pp. 66-68). Only 26.5% of the respondents have developed and implemented use of a bidders list, although the regulations require such.

The DBE program has been continuously subject to litigation during its almost two decades of existence. Overall, the picture of the DBE program that emerges from the GAO report is one of essential information that is missing, or if available, does not support any finding of a national pattern of discrimination against DBEs.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred April 18, 1998 in New York City. A man who used anti-gay epithets allegedly slashed a gay man in the face with a knife. Eric Rodriguez, 22, was charged with attempted murder, assault, and criminal possession of a weapon.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

RAILROAD CROSSING DELAY REDUCTION ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, earlier this month I introduced the Railroad Crossing Delay Reduction Act, S. 1015, with my colleagues, Senators LEVIN and STABENOW.

This legislation would accelerate efforts at the U.S. Department of Transportation to address the issue of rail safety by requiring the Secretary of Transportation to issue specific regulations regarding trains that block automobile traffic at railroad crossings. Currently, there are no Federal limits

on how long trains can block crossings. The Railroad Crossing Delay Reduction Act would simply minimize automobile traffic delay caused by trains blocking traffic at railroad grade crossings.

In northeastern Illinois, there are frequent blockages at rail crossings. These blocked crossings prevent emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, and other related vehicles from getting to their destinations during the times of need. This is a serious problem and one I hope to address by passage of this important legislation.

Blocked rail crossings also delay drivers by preventing them from getting to their destinations. Motorists, knowing they will have to wait for a train to move at blocked crossings, sometimes try to beat the train or ignore signals completely. This is a threat to public safety, and one that must stop. Motorists must act responsibly, but we can reduce the temptation by reducing delays.

Trains stopped for long periods of time also tempt pedestrians to cross between the train cars. I've heard from local mayors in my State that children, in order to get home from school, cross between the rail cars. This is a terrible invitation to tragedy.

Trains blocking crossings cause traffic problems, congestion, and delay. These issues are very real. They are serious. And more importantly, they are a threat to public safety. To address these problems, I've introduced with my colleagues the Railroad Crossing Delay Reduction Act. I'm hopeful this legislation will provide for a safer Illinois and a safer Nation. I urge my colleagues to join the effort to reduce blocked rail-grade crossings by cosponsoring and supporting S. 1015.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 27, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,655,167,264,852.88, Five trillion, six hundred fifty-five billion, one hundred sixty-seven million, two hundred sixty-four thousand, eight hundred fifty-two dollars and eighty-eight cents.

One year ago, June 27, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,650,720,000,000, Five trillion, six hundred fifty billion, seven hundred twenty million.

Five years ago, June 27, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,118,104,000,000, Five trillion, one hundred eighteen billion, one hundred four million.

Ten years ago, June 27, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,502,028,000,000, Three trillion, five hundred two billion, twenty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, June 27, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,040,977,000,000, Two trillion, forty billion, nine hundred seventy-seven million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,614,190,264,852.88, Three trillion, six hundred fourteen billion, one hundred ninety million, two hundred

sixty-four thousand, eight hundred fifty-two dollars and eighty-eight cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING JAMES W. AND JESSE ANN DAVIS

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate two residents of Ashburn, Virginia, on the birth of one of my newest constituents and a fine young man, James Michael Davis. James Michael was born on March 20, 2001, weighing 6 pounds and 10 ounces, and is the proud son of James W. Davis, a member of the U.S. Capitol K-9 Police Force, and Jesse Ann Davis. He is the grandson of Edith Louise Davis and the late James Carl Davis, and Stella Canchola and the late Raymond Canchola.

James Michael has entered a world of unlimited opportunity and possibilities. His parents and grandparents will help instill virtues of independence, self-reliance, perseverance and determination, all of which will serve him well along the road of life.

I want to extend my best wishes to James Michael for many years of health and happiness.●

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICHARD W. MCDOWELL

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to speak today to acknowledge a leader, from my home State of Michigan, who has dedicated his life to serving the citizens in Michigan, Dr. Richard W. McDowell. Today, many people will gather to pay tribute to Dr. McDowell for his service as President of Schoolcraft College, in Livonia, MI, for the past twenty years.

Dr. McDowell has dedicated his life, both professionally and personally, to the service of his community. Dr. McDowell has served capably and honorably as the President of Schoolcraft College during a period of incredible growth for this institution. He has presided over programs and projects that have reshaped the campus, and enhanced its ability to meet the needs of students at Schoolcraft College.

During his tenure as President, Dr. McDowell has presided over the construction of numerous structures including additions to the Campus Center, the Child Care Center and the student center that bears his name. In addition to enhancing the physical facilities, he has greatly enhanced the economic structure of the campus by forming the Schoolcraft Development Authority, and by expanding the endowment of the college. These efforts will secure the ability of the school to maintain a world-class campus while providing students with access to an affordable education.

In addition to these activities, Dr. McDowell is a leader in his profession and in numerous civic institutions. His

love of academia and education translated into his desire to serve the educational community writ large. Dr. McDowell has served as President of the Michigan Community College Association, and he has been a member of the Michigan Educational Trust Board, the National Advisory Panel for the Community College Program at the University of Michigan, the American Association of Community Colleges and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

He has further assisted his community by serving on the board of Wayne County Private Industry Corporation, St. Mary Mercy Hospital and the City of Livonia Ethics Board. This selfless leadership has been recognized by many organizations, including his alma maters—Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Purdue University. Both of these institutions awarded him their distinguished alumni awards. In addition, he was selected one of the top fifty community college presidents in the United States by the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin.

I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in saluting Dr. McDowell for his career of public service, particularly the commitment to education which he has exhibited for the last two decades.●

CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues in support of the Concrete Canoe Competition.

Civil Engineers design the backbone of our Nation's infrastructure. By designing, building, and maintaining our infrastructure, these engineers have quietly helped to shape the history of our Nation and its communities. Civil Engineers contribute daily to our standard of living through their designing, building, and maintaining our transportation, clean water, and power generation systems.

A great example of civil engineering ingenuity is manifested through the National Concrete Canoe Competition. The Concrete Canoe Competition provides college and university students an opportunity to use the engineering principles learned in the classroom, and apply them in a competitive environment where they further learn important team and project management skills.

I am very pleased to announce that on June 16, 2001, the University of Alabama at Huntsville won an unprecedented fifth national Championship in the Concrete Canoe Competition.●

RETIREMENT OF JOHN C. HOY AS PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is an honor today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of John C. Hoy, president of the New England Board of Higher Education, who is re-

tiring this month. Mr. Hoy has dedicated the past twenty-three years to serving the higher education institutions of New England, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

Since he became president of the Board in 1978, Mr. Hoy has led the effort to provide an accessible and affordable education for every New Englander. To accomplish this goal, he established reforms in his own organization, and he also involved individuals and businesses throughout New England in effective partnerships that served students and institutions alike.

Among his primary achievements was the publication of numerous important books, including studies on the relationship between higher education and economic well-being in New England, the links between U.S. competitiveness and international aspects of higher education, and the effects of legal education on the New England economy.

In addition, John Hoy offered much-needed support to minority communities. He encouraged greater participation by Blacks and Hispanics in higher education, and he worked effectively to increase the number of ethnic minorities completing PhD programs. He also created a scholarship program for Black South African students at South Africa's open universities under apartheid.

John Hoy also cared deeply about the way technology was changing higher education, in New England and around the country. Under his initiative, the Board explored the promise of biotech industries and manufacturing in New England, and worked to improve technical education, with the help of both professional educators and the private sector. In addition, he worked with other regional boards of higher education to coordinate telecommunications among higher educational institutions.

John C. Hoy deserves great credit for all he has done to enhance higher education in New England. His accomplishments are deeply appreciated by all of us who know him, and I welcome this opportunity to wish him a long and happy retirement.●

HONORING DR. BERNARD MEYERS

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to say thank you to Dr. Bernard "Bernie" Meyers, President and General Manager of Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC (BBWI). BBWI manages the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) for the United States Department of Energy.

The INEEL is the third largest employer in the state of Idaho and the largest employer in my hometown of Idaho Falls. For the past 2 years Bernie's professional and personal skills have helped lead the INEEL in its mission to be an enduring national resource that delivers science and engineered solutions to the world's environmental, energy and security challenges.