House experiences and the several victories with the dairy compact from among the Senate years.

''Each time, no one really believed it was possible but Jim refused to throw in the towel,'' she says.

Luke Albee, Leahy's chief of staff, gives Russ credit for extension of the compact. ''She was focused and tenacious and she said to us every day when we were exhausted and dispirited, 'This is going to happen because it has to happen.' ''

Russ has no hesitation in what she treasures the most from her decades in Washington: How Jeffords stood by her and her husband when Jack Russ, then the House sergeant at arms, was swept up in a federal probe into how congressmen misused the House bank.

''It would have been understandable for Jim the politician to try and distance himself from the House Bank Scandal,'' she says. ''By 1994, when Jim was facing a difficult reelection race, Jack had come to represent the 'scandal' in a very public way. Jim never hestitated in his support.'' Russ says the tone of Washington and the intensity of the battle have changed dramatically since 1978.

''Members of different parties used to have intense battles over issues on the floor of the House or Senate and when it was over go out and have dinner together. They never went into each other's districts to help challengers. There was a general sense of camaraderie that does not exist anymore between members of the two parties.''

Russ is moving to Texas to be closer to her husband's family. She has formed her own firm to advise businesses and non profits on the ways of government. She hopes the move will allow her to keep a hand in government but allow her more time to spend with her family.

Russ leaves Washington painfully aware that ''politics is not a game for the meek,'' but more importantly, ''I learned when all is said and done, you have to live with yourself and your decisions, so you better do what you think is right and let the chips fall where they may.''

SAUDI ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to comment on S. 1888, the Saudi Arabia Accountability Act of 2003, introduced by Senator SPECTER. I commend my colleague for his leadership on this issue. Combating terrorism is our highest national security priority at this time, and I have long had concerns regarding Saudi support for terrorist groups. While the administration has stated that the Government of Saudi Arabia has recently increased its cooperation with the United States, and while I do believe that last week's joint U.S.-Saudi announcement regarding Al-Haramain branches in Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya and Tanzania is a positive step, it remains evident that the Saudi Government has often turned a blind eye to many activities that foster terrorism and, in some cases, Saudi leadership appears to have supported terrorism directly. This bill serves to exert pressure on Saudi Arabia to increase its counterterrorism efforts or to face limited sanctions. Cutting the links between terrorist organizations and their sponsoring governments is one of the most crucial tasks in the fight against terrorism, and I support the goals of this legislation.

However, the legislation raises other concerns that must be carefully considered by Congress. I am concerned that the legislation demonstrates the degree to which we, as policymakers, wear blinders in our relationship with Saudi Arabia. The legislation expresses dissatisfaction with the Government of Saudi Arabia solely for their lack of cooperation on the global war on terrorism. But Congress must not fail to mention the government's repression of women, grand-scale corruption, widescale detentions, and restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly. I fear that these omissions risk sending the wrong message about U.S. foreign policy priorities to the Middle East and other areas of the world. U.S. foreign policy objectives of promoting human rights and democracy must not be neglected while combating terrorism. These do not have to be contradictory goals. Even as we urge the Saudi Government to act more decisively and consistently against terrorism, we must ensure that the U.S. does not inadvertently encourage repression of desperately needed reforms in Saudi Arabia. Only by addressing both sets of issues can we achieve a future in which the U.S. relationship with Saudi Arabia stands on a firm footing.

The national security implications of failing to speak out bluntly about Saudi support for terrorism prompted me to cosponsor S. 1888. However, I hope that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will take the opportunity to address some of these issues I have raised.

THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see the Senator from Maryland on the floor, an important member of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, and I am under the impression that she would like to discuss an issue concerning the International Fund for Ireland, IFI, with Senator MCCONNELL and myself.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator, who, like me, is a strong supporter of the International Fund for Ireland. As the Senator from Vermont knows, peace and reconciliation efforts in Northern Ireland, under the Good Friday Agreement, will be assisted by efforts to build community institutions that promote tolerance and cooperation at the local level. I very much appreciate IFI's investment in these types of programs in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. I want to particularly commend IFI for the grant awarded to the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, formerly the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust. I would urge IFI, where appropriate, to increase its investment in these community-building efforts, as they are an important complement to IFI's economic development efforts.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator from Maryland. I also believe that IFI should consider increasing its support for these types of programs.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I agree with what the Senators from Maryland and Vermont have said concerning IFI and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

RECOGNIZING PAUL M. IGASAKI, FORMER VICE CHAIR, U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I recognize Paul Igasaki, a Chicago native, for his contributions to the important work of advancing our civil rights. Mr. Igasaki has dedicated his entire professional career to ensuring justice for the powerless in our society who are often neglected and ignored.

In his most recent years of public service as a commissioner, vice chair, and acting chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC, Mr. Igasaki not only enforced laws that helped prevent employment discrimination practices, he himself broke the glass ceiling as the first Asian American appointed to the high office.

Mr. Igasaki was successful in reducing overwhelming case backlog that was impairing the effective functioning of the agency. His recommendations led to the development of the National Enforcement Plan and the Priority Charge Handling Program, which have reduced the EEOC case inventory by over 70 percent. These structural changes have allowed the agency to focus on more serious cases where the EEOC's involvement can make a difference to the lives of American workers.

Similarly, Mr. Igasaki cochaired an EEOC task force that recommended focused litigation strategy, placement of attorneys in area offices, and greater cooperation between attorneys and investigators in agency, which have led to increased law enforcement effectiveness of the agency.

One of his most notable accomplishments during his term on the EEOC was his role in guiding the settlement of the Mitsubishi Motors of America case—the largest case involving sexual harassment at the workplace. His success with this case was influential in moving the Japanese government to implement gender discrimination and sexual harassment enforcement laws for their own country.

In the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, Mr. Igasaki brought valuable perspectives from his personal experiences as a Japanese American to the EEOC's efforts to combat unfair backlash and scapegoating of Arab Americans, South Asian Americans, Muslim or Sikh Americans and others who were wrongly targeted by hate and discrimination.

Mr. Igasaki mother's family owned a small truck farm near San Diego. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans, Mr. Igasaki's grandparents had been in the United States for almost a half century, and like most immigrants