

study gaseous emissions from agriculture operations, which was not in the administration's budget request.

\$100,000 to study crop pollination by bees, Logan, UT, which was not in the administration's budget request.

\$600,000 for the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, WI, which was not in the administration's budget request.

\$250,000 for shellfish and salmon research, Franklin, ME, which was not in the administration's budget request.

\$250,000 for the Great Lakes Aquaculture Center, Coshocton, OH, which was not in the administration's budget request.

\$158,000 for cranberry research, Massachusetts.

\$1.4 million for potato research (State not listed).

\$453,000 for seafood safety research, Massachusetts;

\$4.1 million for shrimp aquaculture research in AZ, HI, MA, MS, SC, and TX.

\$780,000 for milk safety research at Pennsylvania State University, PA, which was not in the administration's budget request.

\$170,000 for blackbird management in the State of Kansas, which was not in the administration's budget request.

It is worth noting what we are already doing to support our Nation's agriculture producers. Last year, Federal farm subsidies grew to more than \$23 billion despite near-record farm revenue which reached \$76 billion. While some of these farm programs make good fiscal sense, other have become alarmingly wasteful and counter-productive.

For example, The Washington Post recently exposed a USDA program, known as "direct and counter-cyclical payments," that in 2005 paid out \$1.3 billion to farmers irrespective of high or low market prices or whether they grew any crops at all. This program was intended to be a temporary subsidy that would prop up farmers during poor market conditions, but the special interests and the farm lobby convinced Congress to keep this unneeded program, which has become perhaps the most abused farm subsidy in existence.

The Washington Post also discovered that in 2002 and 2003, \$635 million in drought assistance went to ranchers and dairy farmers whose livestock experienced mild or no drought at all. Thanks to strong lobbying by cattle growers, the Congress modified the payment requirements under the Livestock Compensation Program for 2002-2003, so that ranchers weren't required to prove they suffered any actual losses. So long as the disaster was declared, the Government simply mailed checks to ranchers dependent only on the number of cattle they owned.

In an offshoot of the USDA's drought relief efforts, the Federal Government paid \$34 million to compensate catfish farmers for feed they purchased during the 2002 drought year, even though feed prices were at a 10-year low. Much like

the cattle program, catfish farmers were not required to prove they suffered any losses. All they had to do was tell the USDA how much feed they bought that year.

Who is at fault for this egregious waste? The farmer? The Department of Agriculture? In reality, both are the victims of bad policy. Unfortunately, the biggest victim is the taxpayer, and the blame rests with us, the Congress. Our current farm policy is riddled with waste. Yet we compound matters by furthering the out-of-control earmarking of pork.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the record copies of *The Washington Post* articles I cited: Farm Program Pays \$1.3 Billion to People Who Don't Farm (July 2, 2006), No Drought Required For Federal Drought Aid (July 18, 2006), and When Feed Was Cheap, Catfish Farmers Got Help Buying It (July 18, 2006).

It is difficult to overlook the \$4.5 billion disaster assistance package that appropriators have attached to this bill. None of this funding under this agricultural title is included in the administration's request, and in fact, was strongly opposed by the administration when similar provision were added to the 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. My colleagues may recall that the emergency supplemental faced a veto threat because of the billions of dollars in unrequested agriculture handouts appropriators were seeking. Fortunately these agriculture subsidies were removed in conference, and the bill was finally enacted enabling crucial funding to reach our troops overseas.

Let's take a look at some of the provisions in this latest Agriculture disaster package:

\$1 billion in crop disaster assistance to compensate farmers for damage that occurred in 2005 due to weather. This also specifically applies to the Mormon cricket infestation in Nevada, and flooding in California, Hawaii and Vermont.

\$13 million to help ewe lamb farmers who have suffered populations losses.

\$6 million to owners of flooded crop and grazing land in North Dakota.

\$6 million to assist a sugarcane transportation cooperative in Hawaii.

\$100 million for grants to each State to promote specialty crop production.

\$1.7 billion in assistance to dairy farmers who suffered losses in 2005.

This appropriations measure is not expected to receive any further action during this session of Congress. Instead of debating and passing our annual spending bills, our constitutional obligation, we are resorting to passing continuing resolutions to maintain our government functions well into fiscal year 2007. This failure is partially because of our habit of earmarking. When members frantically look for appropriation bills as vehicles for pet projects and unrequested earmarks, the appropriation process becomes a game of "you vote for my pork, I'll vote for

yours." This is the sad state of our appropriations process, when we would rather postpone funding for critical programs for our farmers, soldiers, veterans, seniors, and nearly everything until next year if it means our pork isn't included this round.

Again I want to make it clear that I support doing all that we can for the American farmer. Agriculture production is part of the backbone of our great country. However, we do more bad than good by raiding the national treasury, and, in some cases other Agriculture programs, to pay for pet projects that in many cases benefit certain constituency which is not representative of the larger needs of the farming community.

RETIREMENT OF JOHN TREZISE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, as the chairman of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I wish to speak for a few moments about the coming retirement of one of the most dedicated public servants I have had the pleasure of knowing. Shortly after the first of the year, John Trezise will be leaving the Department of the Interior after 35 productive years..

Since 1998, John has served as the Director of the Interior Department's Office of Budget and for the 5 years before that as the Chief of the Office's Division of Budget. In short, John has been "running the numbers" at the Interior Department for the past 13 years. And I can vouch for the fact that during those years, no one has known more about the Department's budget than John. He is, to put it bluntly, a walking ledger.

John first got his start with the Department in 1971 when he hired on as a young attorney in the Office of the Solicitor. For a number of years, he was Assistant Solicitor for administrative law and General Legal Services, specializing in appropriations law issues.

It is this legal background that has made John such an important asset to those of us on the Appropriations Committee. The guidance and counsel John has been able to offer our Members and our staff has been invaluable. It is no exaggeration to say that without his help, we would have been, if not lost, at least temporarily delayed in getting our appropriations bill done each year on time and within our budget.

As he prepares to leave the Department, I wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to John Trezise for all he has done and to let him know that he will be sorely missed by the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Interior appropriations subcommittee, I wish to join my colleague from Montana in extending our congratulations and our best wishes to John Trezise as he prepares to leave Federal service.

Each spring, the Interior Subcommittee holds a budget hearing to

review the Interior Department's budget request for the coming fiscal year. The Interior Secretary is always seated, front and center, at the main table in our hearing room ready to answer the myriad of questions coming from our subcommittee's members. And despite the sometimes obscure nature of the questions asked, the Secretary has always been able to offer a timely, if not credible, answer. That ability to respond is more often than not due to the fact that, seated immediately next to the Secretary, has been John Trezise and the fattest looseleaf binder any of us has ever seen. No matter what is asked, John has been able to reach into that book and almost instantly retrieve a figure or some other pithy explanation that nearly always seems to satisfy the inquiring Senator. It is a magical exercise that must be seen to be believed.

Mr. President, too often the word "bureaucrat" is used as a pejorative. But in the case of John Trezise, those of us on the Interior Subcommittee have come to learn that he exemplifies the best in civil service. And so I join Senator BURNS in saying to Mr. Trezise that he can be justly proud of his service to the American people and that we wish him and his family all the best in the coming years.

RETIREMENT OF MR. ANTHONY J. "TONY" ZAGAMI

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, at the end of this year, a longtime employee of the Congress and the legislative branch will retire from Federal Service. On January 3, Anthony J. "Tony" Zagami will leave the U.S. Government Printing Office, having been the longest serving general counsel in the agencies history.

Tony Zagami began his career as a page in the U.S. Senate in the mid 1960s as I was completing my first term as a U.S. Senator from Hawaii. His late father, Dino, also served the U.S. Senate at that time as a member of the Official Reporters of Debates. I had the pleasure of knowing and working with both of the Zagami's during that period of time. Dino retired in 1972 as Tony's congressional career was just getting underway.

Tony held a number of positions on the Hill while pursuing an undergraduate and law degree. He spent a total of 25 years working for the Congress in positions ranging from Senate page to committee general counsel, before leaving in 1990 to become the general counsel for the Government Printing Office. As you know, the GPO is responsible for producing and distributing our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other vital Government documents on a daily basis.

After 40 years of dedicated Government service, Tony Zagami has decided to move on to the next chapter of his life. As he ends a distinguished career, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Zagami for his many

years of public service to our Nation and wish him and his family the very best in all future endeavors.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, at the end of this year, Anthony "Tony" Zagami will retire after 40 years of public service, including the last 16 years at the Government Printing Office, which publishes the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all of us every day.

I first met Tony when I served in my first term in the Senate. He was working as a legislative assistant in the Democratic cloakroom. He spent 25 years working in the Congress, including general counsel to the Joint Committee on Printing.

In 1990, Tony left to become the general counsel at the Government Printing Office. When he retires it will be with the distinction of having been the agency's longest-serving general counsel.

As he moves on, I know all my colleagues join me in thanking him for his dedicated service, and wish him the best for the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PAIGE McPHERSON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Paige McPherson of Sturgis, SD, for her success in the martial art of tae kwon do. Paige is considered one of the top female Tae Kwon Do fighters in the country in the 130- to 139-pound weight class.

Paige McPherson trains and teaches out of the Black Hawk tae kwon do center in Black Hawk, SD. She has successfully competed in tae kwon do tournaments at the national level and has secured a spot for the 2007 Senior National Team and Pan American Game Trials.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Paige McPherson on this special occasion and to wish her continued success in the years to come.●

SHIRLEY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOUND, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Shirley Hills Primary School, in Mound, Minnesota, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Shirley Hills Primary School is truly a model of educational success. The teaching staff believes wholeheartedly that all children can succeed, a philosophy that has led to performance rates that are among the best in the State. The learning environment values strong character in addition to academic achievement. In addition, the vibrant school community offers a pre-school program, to help ensure a smooth transition to kindergarten.

Shirley Hills Primary School is particularly proud of its designation as a Minnesota five-star school, recognized for excellence by the Minnesota De-

partment of Education. The school recently received the Parent Involvement School of Excellence Award from the National PTA, recognizing its strong partnership with parents. The Westonka School District which includes Shirley Hills Primary School has also earned the What Parents Want Award, given by SchoolMatch, the Nation's largest school-selection consulting firm. The award was earned by fewer than 15 percent of the Nation's public school districts. The Westonka District was also 1 of 22 Minnesota school districts named academic outperformers by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services.

Shirley Hills Primary fosters the development of strong character by recognizing children for demonstrating responsibility, respect, and honesty. An all-school assembly every month includes the presentation of a trophy, given successively in due course to a child who has demonstrated one of these qualities. Shirley Hills pupils know that good character is lived out, in all areas of life; it is how they choose to live, not just how they behave in school.

In the belief that children can succeed better in the global economy when knowledgeable about other languages and cultures, Shirley Hills offers before- and after-school Spanish classes for kindergarten through fourth grade. The school district is also pursuing a secondary-level educational exchange program with China.

Shirley Hills' staff encourages families to expect great test scores but not to settle for that alone. The school proudly has high expectations for achievement and behavior, and just as proudly provides educational experiences that take into account the whole child. Teachers know each child's strengths and growth areas, and they work together with parents to help every child grow as a learner, as well as a valued human being.

Much of the credit for Shirley Hills Primary School's success belongs to its principal, Ann Swanson, and the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Shirley Hills Primary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where pupils can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and children at Shirley Hills Primary School should be very proud of their accomplishments!

I congratulate Shirley Hills Primary School in Mound for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

LAKE MARION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Lake Marion Elementary School, in Lakeville, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence