

that addresses the challenges of our day. Through successes and failings, Trent has always been true to this purpose. Most important to him, he has also been true to his constituents, and to his family. I trust that these priorities will continue to guide him, and know they will bring him success for many years to come.

SAFETY OF SLAUGHTER FACILITIES

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I wish to highlight a recent undercover video produced by the Humane Society of the United States. This video displays the appalling methods used by employees at the California-based Hallmark Meat Packing Company during the processing of cattle, as well as the unacceptable state of USDA's oversight of meat packing operations.

The video documents horrifying scenes of employees using electrical prods to shock animals, pulling them with chains, and carelessly driving over them with a forklift in an effort to bring sick or injured cows to their feet. These cruel actions amount to nothing less than torture. There was even a case of using a hose to forcibly spray water into a cow's nose to get it to rise to its feet to avoid the sensation of drowning.

Currently, the State of California has laws in place that specifically prohibit the kinds of activities taking place at Hallmark. In addition, because of the health hazards associated with so-called "downer" cattle, which are those unable to stand and walk due to either injury or illness, USDA in 2003 passed a regulation prohibiting the processing of such animals. According to USDA's own reports, there is a much higher incidence of mad cow disease in these animals, and they are also much more susceptible to pathogens like *E. coli* and salmonella.

The actions of this slaughterhouse, and possibly countless others, in violation of established laws, have put our most vulnerable and important assets in danger—children. The animals processed by this facility are supplied to the Westland Meat Company, which is the second-largest provider of beef to USDA's Commodity Procurement Branch. This arm of USDA distributes the meat to needy families and also to more than 100,000 schools across America through the National School Lunch Program. I shudder when I think of how many other of the Nation's 6,200 slaughterhouses could be evading oversight and endangering the lives of countless Americans.

The two daily scheduled USDA inspections at the Hallmark facility are obviously no deterrent to the abhorrent practices being performed there. In fact, the very short and superficial nature of the inspections serve to encourage workers to do anything they can to bring a sick animal to its feet just long enough to pass inspection before being slaughtered.

In order to ensure the safety of our Nation's food supply, ensure animals are treated humanely and with respect, and protect our families and children from possible life-threatening illnesses, we must act. Atrocities such as those exposed by the Humane Society must be swiftly abolished, and effective oversight measures put in place immediately.

USDA needs to shore up inspections, hold slaughterhouses accountable and uphold food safety standards, and ensure that cattle and dairy farmers are aware that nonambulatory cattle will not be accepted for processing. It is also imperative that we, Congress, ensure that downer livestock is unable to enter our food chain, and the best way to accomplish this task is to codify the prohibition of downer livestock from entering our food supply.

I introduced S. 394, the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act, to fill a gap in the current USDA and the Food and Drug Administration regulations. It calls for the humane euthanization of nonambulatory livestock. The euthanization of nonambulatory livestock would remove this high-risk population from the portion of livestock reserved for our consumption. Due to the presence of other prion diseases found throughout other species of livestock, all animals that fit under the definition of livestock are included in this bill.

The benefits of my bill are numerous, for both the public and the industry. On the face of it, the bill will prevent needless suffering by humanely euthanizing nonambulatory animals. The removal of downed animals from our food chain will insure that it is safer and of better quality. The reduction in the likelihood of disease would result in safer working conditions for persons handling livestock. This added protection against disease would help the flow of livestock and livestock products in interstate and foreign commerce, making commerce in livestock more easily attainable.

We must act now and call upon USDA to make the necessary changes to ensure that the atrocities demonstrated at this slaughterhouse are not repeated elsewhere. In addition, I urge my colleagues to support passage of the Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act.

RETIREMENT OF MARTIN PAONE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, Marty began in the House Post Office to help pay his way through graduate school at Georgetown. He then worked to the Senate parking office. Then, in 1979, 29 years ago, Marty began working in the Senate Democratic Cloakroom. Marty worked his way up the ranks until being appointed Secretary for the Minority in 1995.

It is impossible to overstate Marty's importance to everything that we have done on the floor of the U.S. Senate: what comes to the floor, what gets off the floor, what gets amended or not.

But Marty has not just been indispensable on procedure and tactics. Marty has also been an invaluable strategic adviser to me, to the Democratic leadership and, I say with confidence, to every Democratic Senator and to more than a few Republican Senators.

There just aren't many people I could say that about.

We have relied on him and will miss him because of his tireless work ethic, his excellent judgment and his ability to be the calm in the middle of the storm. And for anyone who has been in the middle of a storm around here, staying calm is no easy task.

Marty has also put in the hours. Early days and late nights were the norm. But, he is always been here. For that, we will always be grateful.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention his family and our gratitude to them for all the time he was here helping us rather than at home with them.

His wife Ruby is part of our Senate family and has endured Marty's very tough job, as have his children: Alexander, Stephanie, and Tommy.

To each of them, I want to say thank you for putting up with him and our demands on him.

I also want to mention Marty's mother, Evelyn, who is 95 years young. His mother is very proud of him and all that he has accomplished. And I want her to know that we are all very proud of him as well.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge Marty's successors. We are all so pleased that Lula Davis is our new secretary. Having more than 25 years of Senate service and many years of working with Marty, we all know she will fill these very big shoes and serve us all well.

Tim Mitchell is replacing Lula as Assistant Democratic Secretary. He has 16 years of Senate service and a wealth of experience and we look forward to working with him as well in his new capacity.

And Jacques Purvis will move from the cloakroom and join Trish Engle as one of our floor assistants and I congratulate him on that move as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAROLE ANNE HEART

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor one of the most dedicated advocates for health care treaty rights for American Indian tribes in my State and throughout the United States, Carole Anne Heart. Carole Anne was the executive director for the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board. The Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board operates several programs for native people in a 4-State region that represents 18 tribes including the 9 treaty tribes in my home State of South Dakota. During her tenure with the Chairmen's Health Board, programs such as Healthy Start, Tobacco Prevention, and Asthma Prevention expanded to serve hundreds of Native