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suffering people gained independence in 1918 with the expectation that their nation would finally be able to take its permanent place in the family of free nations. Fate, however, dictated otherwise, and in 1940 Estonia was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union.

Friends of Estonia throughout the world mark the anniversary of Estonian independence with pride in Estonia's heritage and in the undying commitment of Estonians to freedom.

Mr. President, we are blessed with liberty in a land enriched by the contributions of Estonian Americans. On this occasion we pay renewed homage to the brave people of Estonia and to all who keep faith with them.

MINNEAPOLIS CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER AND HOSPITAL

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Children and Youth, I am painfully aware of the inadequacy of medical services for children in this country. There is no question that children have special medical needs that demand the highest quality and most immediate care available.

In Congress we are all seeking, as we have been for some time, the means of meeting the health crisis of this affluent Nation. We have observed that, despite our great resources, many needy persons go unserved because of the inefficiency of our health delivery system.

For example, we have on the books a law that would provide medical diagnosis, screening, and treatment of every poor child in this country. We have a system of maternal and child health centers which have demonstrated their ability to reduce infant mortality, and yet we know that thousands and perhaps millions of children in this country do not receive the health care they require.

Minnesota has for many years been a leader in the provision of health care to residents of the State and of the Nation. The University of Minnesota Hospital and Medical School, and the Mayo Clinic, are only two of the outstanding medical institutions in the State.

I am pleased to report that once again Minnesota is pioneering in the vital field of health care. A new and promising Children's Health Center and Hospital has opened in Minneapolis. The center will be operated jointly by several hospitals which will combine their resources in order to provide the best possible services to children with needs ranging from routine physical examinations to major surgery. I am convinced that this consolidation of facilities will provide new and needed opportunities for children with health problems, and serve as a model that will inspire other communities to evaluate and improve their own facilities.

I request unanimous consent to place in the RECORD a copy of an editorial about the center which recently appeared in the Minneapolis Tribune.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER

As staff and board members prepare to put the new Children's Health Center and Hos-

pital in Minneapolis into full operation next week, there is an unmistakable feeling evident among them that they are about to launch an important addition to the Upper Midwest's great medical institutions. There is ample reason for this buoyant attitude. The center is equipped and staffed to offer complete medical care for children, all the way from routine physical examinations to major surgery. Top-flight pediatric specialists and technologists have already joined the staff. The outpatient facilities are large and fully equipped, and the children's dental clinic is the only one of its kind in the Upper Midwest.

Dr. Robert Laur, deputy administrator for preventive and consumer services in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, who visited the center recently, said this week that he was particularly impressed by the center's idea of combining total services in a single setting, including emphasis on the patient's mental and emotional health at all stages of his treatment. Laur said Children's still may have to face some "problem areas," particularly in regard to some of its innovations, because "anyone who is pioneering will uncover problems." But these, he said, will be overcome if the founders "sustain their enthusiasm."

The opening of Children's will permit hospitals that have small or inefficient pediatric units that they would like to close to do so. Already Northwestern and Abbott hospitals have announced plans to close their units, which total 63 beds, Children's will have 100 beds at the outset.

Founders of Children's have long felt that the city needed a facility that would provide in one place the pediatric equipment and expertise needed for the comprehensive care of children. The idea is supported by many pediatricians—a spokesman for the center said last week that "some of the finest pediatric surgeons in the country will be practicing here almost exclusively." Physicians in other fields also have shown an interest in Children's, as evidenced by the fact that as of last week 250 doctors had applied for hospital staff membership.

Children's was built for \$10 million of which \$5.5 million was raised from contributions and \$4.5 million by selling bonds. James Miles, board chairman, said the center wants to raise more money from contributions so the bonds can be paid off, enabling the center to reduce its bills to consumers by about 10 percent. It is the center's objective, Miles said, "to provide optimum care at minimum cost."

It was 30 years from the time the idea of a children's hospital was conceived until the time it was built. There were financial setbacks and some opposition (it was planned earlier for 200 beds, which some people thought were more than needed). Now the way is clear for Children's to fulfill the dreams of its founders. We wish it success.

CONSERVATION OF HELIUM

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, helium is a rare and precious commodity. It has an irreplaceable need in cryogenic transmission of energy, in magnetohydrodynamics, and in other technologies which must be developed before the end of this century. The Department of the Interior has signified its importance in the environmental impact statement filed by the Department in cancellation of contracts made for conservation of helium.

The Department of the Interior, in that impact statement, estimates that recovery of helium from "possible and speculative gas reserves," in the future, will cost from \$50 to \$700 per thousand cubic feet. Recovery from the atmosphere

is estimated to cost "in the range of \$1,000 to \$3,000 a thousand cubic feet."

In the helium conservation program just canceled a pipeline runs from Bush-ton, Kans., to the Government's storage field at Cliffside, Tex. Helium has been transported for storage through this line for more than 10 years at a cost, to the Government, of less than \$12 per thousand cubic feet. Since cancellation of this one storage contract, the Government has closed the valve on its pipeline and each day, more than 2 million cubic feet of helium are vented into the air. Litigation over the canceled contract and efforts to effect a storage agreement suitable to the Government are yet to be completed. In the meanwhile, a precious source is arbitrarily being dissipated.

On January 25, Senator HRUSKA and I asked the Secretary of the Interior to open the valve and take the wasting helium to storage. We asked him to do this without delay, and to accept it without prejudice to either party in litigation. We asked him to do this in the interest of conservation and to let the determination of title be subordinated to the need for conservation. I am inserting our letter of request which is, as yet, unanswered.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JANUARY 25, 1973.

HON. ROGERS MORTON,
Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: This will refer to your prior correspondence about conservation of helium with particular reference to your letter of January 22 to Senator Curtis on the matter of storing helium now being vented at Bushton, Kansas.

We are apprised of the status of litigation involving the several contractors and we have no desire to propose any action which might affect, in any way, the prosecution of these matters.

Our question, which is yet unanswered, is why the helium now being vented cannot continue to be stored without prejudice to either of the parties before the Court of Claims? To store the helium would avoid waste of a scarce and essential element and, to store without prejudice to the parties, will not affect the litigation.

As you may know, Senator McCLURE made this same proposition to Undersecretary Whitaker during hearings on his confirmation.

We believe this merits immediate attention and action.

Sincerely yours,

ROMAN L. HRUSKA,
CARL T. CURTIS,
U.S. Senators.

HEARINGS ON THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION

Mr. CHURCH. Mr. President, in recent weeks a number of my colleagues in the Senate have made statements on the floor expressing their concern over the review draft of the report of the National Water Commission.

The National Water Commission was created by the act of September 26, 1968, to conduct a 5-year study of national water resources problems and programs and to report to the Congress