

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 25, 1992. I wanted to make a matter of daily record of the precise size of the Federal debt which as of yesterday, Monday, October 30, stood at \$4,975,234,385,762.72 or \$18,886.08 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt since my most recent report this past Friday—which identified the total Federal debt as of the close of business on Thursday, October 26, 1995—shows an increase of \$1,559,581,857.19 during that 4-day period. That 4-day increase is equivalent to the amount of money needed by 231,255 students to pay their college tuitions for 4 years.

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND DEREGULATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to update my colleagues on the progress we are making on telecommunications reform in the 104th Congress. Last Wednesday morning I had the honor of chairing the organizational meeting of the Senate-House conference on S. 652, the Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995.

It was truly a historic day. We began the final stage of enacting comprehensive telecommunications deregulation legislation—the most significant and profound change in our Nation's telecommunications policy and law in over 60 years.

As conference chairman, I will continue—as I have throughout this long process—to work in an open, inclusive, and bipartisan fashion with all of my Senate and House colleagues. In particular, I want to thank the Senate Commerce Committee's ranking Democratic member, Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS of South Carolina, for his leadership and willingness to work cooperatively with me at each stage of this process.

I also heartily applaud the tremendous work of our House colleagues in helping get us to this stage of the process. I very much look forward to working closely with them under the able leadership of Commerce Committee Chairman TOM BLILEY, and ranking Democrat JOHN DINGELL, Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman JACK FIELDS, and ranking Democrat ED MARKEY, and Judiciary Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE, and ranking Democrat JOHN CONYERS.

Let me also add that I look forward to working with President Clinton, Vice President GORE, and others in the executive branch. I have welcomed the administration's input from the beginning of the process.

I am firmly committed to moving this conference forward as rapidly as possible. In order to move quickly, however, we must remain within the confines of the two bills before us. To do otherwise would be like opening the proverbial Pandora's box. It would re-

sult in unacceptable delay as we rehash issues resolved through hours, days, weeks and months of negotiation and committee and floor votes at earlier points in this long process.

I am convinced we can rapidly move this conference forward due to the striking degree of similarity between the two bills. Moreover, we have the strong support and commitment from the leadership in both Chambers to act this year.

The time has long passed since Congress needed to reassert its rightful place in establishing national telecommunications policy. Dozens of lines of business restrictions carve up telecommunications and forbid competition. Meanwhile, once separate and distinct industry segments have become indistinguishable due to digital technology. Yet the regulatory apartheid regime remains.

The conference on telecommunications reform will produce a report to change all that. We will open all telecommunications markets to competition. The result will be a procompetitive, deregulatory and balanced regime. Competition and deregulation, after all, are the only sure-fire ways to ensure: an explosion of new technologies and choices for consumers, massive new market investment, capitalization, and job creation, lower prices for telecommunications products and services, and an end to monopolies and media concentration.

The legislation we are crafting is, simply put, the most comprehensive deregulation of the telecommunications industry in American history. It will promote advanced telecommunications, information networks and other resources in such a manner as to ensure America remains the envy of the world. In order to maintain our world leadership position in communications, however, we need this legislation and we need it now.

Mr. President, I was pleased to receive a letter from the majority leader, Senator BOB DOLE, reiterating his desire to complete action on the telecommunications reform bill prior to adjourning for the year. This is entirely consistent with my stated intention from the very beginning of this process—to enact a new telecommunications deregulation law in 1995.

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

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

OCTOBER 25, 1995.

Hon. LARRY PRESSLER,
*Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Senate Russell Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR LARRY, Thank you for all your hard work on telecommunications reform. The year has been long, but we have moved faster and farther than anyone expected us to. It remains my desire to pass a final bill before we adjourn this session.

The next few weeks are critical and no doubt will be intense. I would appreciate your keeping me and David Wilson informed on the progress of the telecommunications conference committee. You know better than

most that we must keep this legislation grounded in strong, straightforward Republican principles of competition and deregulation.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE,
United States Senate.

EVERGREEN MARINE GROUP: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE IN CHARLESTON

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the role Evergreen Marine Group has played in the economic development of my home city, State, and region over the past 20 years.

The M/V *Ever Spring* sailed into Charleston harbor on October 21, 1975. This first vessel began what was to become a long and prosperous relationship. In its first year of operations in Charleston, Evergreen carried 45,000 tons of cargo on 19 ships through the port. Last year, Evergreen carried over 1.5 million tons on more than 100 ships through Charleston.

Cargo ships reflect incredible investments by the ocean carrier and provide many opportunities for economic development in the regions they serve. They represent the equivalent of floating factories, adding value to products by delivering them where they are needed, when needed. Few Americans realize that 95 percent of our international trade moves by ship.

Evergreen's services in Charleston have allowed business and personal relationships to grow and prosper. The trading relationships forged between companies in geographically distanced nations work to bind our world. More than just raw materials, parts and finished goods flow across the oceans—ideas, culture and shared personal experiences make us more aware and considerate of the world in which we live.

Evergreen began its first scheduled container service in 1975, linking Asia with Charleston and the U.S. east coast. Ten years later, Evergreen began the industry's first two-way, round-the-world service. Today, the company operates in almost every trading market on our globe. Evergreen has also diversified into other areas, such as real estate and aviation, becoming the first private, international air carrier in Taiwan.

Yung-fa Chang, Evergreen's founder, has used hard work, tireless dedication to the customer and support of those who are working toward the common goal as the cornerstones of Evergreen's success. This past spring my home State's University of South Carolina, site of the Nation's highest ranking international business program, awarded him an honorary doctor of business administration, a testament to his achievements.

Charleston is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing regions in

the country, attracting capital investment and interest from around the globe and we are proud to have Evergreen be a part of our community. We are appreciative of the commitment Evergreen has made to our area and look forward to continued success together.

Mr. PELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE FACILITATION ACT

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I am informed that there will be a Republican objection to the unanimous-consent request regarding the short-term extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, also known as MEPFA.

MEPFA was enacted by the Congress in 1994, to give the President much-needed flexibility to help Israel and the Palestinians implement their historic peace treaty. Under the terms of MEPFA, the President can waive certain restrictions against the PLO. In essence, this means the President can provide assistance to the Palestinians, and the PLO can operate an office in the United States.

MEPFA is a vital component of American support for the peace process—both practically and symbolically. On a practical level, U.S. assistance for the Palestinians has helped the fledgling Palestinian Authority to get off the dime and provide desperately needed services to the people of the West Bank and Gaza. Both Israeli and Palestinian officials agree that if their peace agreement is to succeed, there must be a dramatic improvement in the everyday lives of the Palestinian people. They must be aware of the fruits of peace.

U.S. assistance, much of which is channeled through the World Bank's fund for the Palestinians, has helped the donor community secure additional funding from other sources. With the United States leading by example, other nations have come forth with significant donations to help the Palestinians.

The United States has also used MEPFA to influence the Palestinian leadership to move in certain directions. MEPFA guarantees that our aid be transferred only if the Palestinians are complying with the letter and spirit of their peace agreements with Israel. Using our assistance as leverage, the United States has been able to ensure that the Palestinians stand by their word on critical issues such as preventing terrorism against Israel.

Israel's leaders have said that the Palestinians are doing much better when it comes to preventing terrorism, a fact which United States officials confirm. And that, in my view, is the bottom line for the success of the Israel-PLO peace treaty. If the PLO prevents acts of terrorism, then Israelis will feel more secure, more comfortable with the peace agreement.

Only then will Israelis and Palestinians establish a truly lasting peace.

On a symbolic level, MEPFA is a very powerful instrument. MEPFA symbolizes the U.S. commitment to be the honest broker of the peace process. MEPFA is a signal to the Palestinians—and indeed to the rest of the world—that the United States is willing to suspend its laws against the PLO to give peace a real chance. In a certain sense, it resembles the dictum put forth during the Reagan administration regarding the former Soviet Union—"trust, but verify." In effect, we have said to the Palestinians we will trust them to fulfill their agreements, and that they will receive our blessing as long as they remain faithful.

The objection lodged earlier today puts all of that at risk. Our Republican colleagues are endangering the Middle East peace process by refusing to allow a brief, short-term extension of current laws. At a time when our traditional ally, Israel, is taking enormous risks for peace, the objection sends just the wrong signal. The objection says that some of us are unwilling to support our best friend in the Middle East, at the very time it needs us the most.

It is even more perplexing to realize that the Senate has already debated, and for all intents and purposes, resolved the substance of this issue. The Senate passed a long-term extension of MEPFA as part of the foreign operations bill, and this short-term extension is only necessary to get us to the point where the foreign ops bill becomes law.

Under these circumstances, it's hard to imagine that the objection raised goes directly to the merits of the bill. I would hope that the points I have made would help to convince my colleagues of the importance of acting on this measure today, and if possible, immediately.

It troubles me that there is a willingness among some of my colleagues to jeopardize the Middle East peace process. I would hope on an issue of such critical importance to our Nation's security, we could put aside differences and deal directly with the matter at hand.

I am very concerned that we are running out of time—MEPFA expires at midnight tonight, and the House could go into recess early this evening. I hope very much that we can resolve this issue quickly, but if we cannot, there should be no doubt about the consequences and about where the responsibility lies. I am ready to pass this short-term extension here and now, and in all sincerity, I would ask anyone with an objection to come to the floor so that we might reach an agreement.

THE INTERNATIONAL WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, today I wish to address an issue which holds

great significance for the international world order. The subject is the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, a body which can contribute greatly to the reconciliation of the parties to this brutal conflict. As a guarantor of respect for the rule of law and for the protection of human rights, this tribunal supports the principles upon which any lasting peace must be founded. As the peace negotiations among the Bosnian Serbs, Croats, and Moslems begin tomorrow in Dayton, OH, today is an opportune time to reaffirm that the work of the tribunal is a separate but equally important step in the effort to rebuild civil society in the region. No matter the outcome of this round of negotiations, the work of the War Crimes Tribunal must go forward with strong U.S. support.

Mr. President, over the last few days, we have been horrified by a series of front page stories and photos of the terrible atrocities that have occurred in Bosnia. These press reports indicate that United States intelligence has been instrumental in locating mass graves in Bosnia. Those revelations, when paired with refugee accounts of the terrifying trek from Srebrenica to Central Bosnia, suggest that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Moslem men and boys were murdered by the Bosnian Serbs. The United States should place a high priority on collecting information related to these atrocities and on making all evidence available to the War Crimes Tribunal. Just as the tribunals at Nuremberg punished the aggressors and facilitated the reconciliation efforts after World War II, so too must this War Crimes Tribunal redress the horrors that have occurred in Bosnia. I am proud to say that my father, the late Herbert C. Pell, a former Congressman from New York City, was President Franklin Roosevelt's representative on the U.N. War Crimes Commission that laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Nuremberg tribunal. Today, we must support this new tribunal to ensure that the injustices of the war in Bosnia are corrected.

The objectives of the tribunal are threefold: To deter further crimes by the war parties, to punish those responsible for war crimes, and to ensure justice during and after the process of reconciliation and reconstruction of Bosnia. Through the public identification, trial, and conviction of war criminals, the international community hopes to contribute to the peace process by demonstrating the strength and effectiveness of international human rights law. The U.N. Security Council created the tribunal in May of 1993, and the court convened for the first time in November of that year. Yet the progress of the tribunal has been slow.