

Government and their leader, Mu'ammar Qadhafi, who is refusing to allow those suspects to be tried in the United States or in Scottish or in British courts.

Were we to have an international criminal court, there is at least a chance that those individuals would be extradited to be tried in an international criminal court. Perhaps if such a court were in existence, Qadhafi would find another reason for declining to allow that trial to take place, but at least it would provide a possible alternative for such a trial.

The rule of law is indispensable, Mr. President, in a civilized society. We have benefitted enormously in those countries which do have the rule of law. It is a high priority in the United States, obviously, with our constitutional rights.

We should have established an international criminal court a long time ago. It has been on the horizon. It has received favorable comment from the U.S. Senate and from the House on sense-of-the-Congress resolutions. But we ought to be moving to really put it into effect. With the Bosnian war crimes tribunal, we have a chance to advance the rule of law internationally. So I do hope that we will see to it that the request made by the international tribunal on war crimes to have the surrender of these indicted suspects be made as a condition to any peace accord that will take place.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMPSON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). The Chair recognizes the Senator from Wyoming.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SIMPSON. What is the parliamentary situation, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair advises the Senator from Wyoming that morning business was to have closed at 1 o'clock, although the Senator would have an option to extend it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I do not like to do that, and do not do it often at all; however, I will do so.

I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed an additional 35 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the Chair because I know full well that it is the staff that needs the recess as much as we do. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate what they do for us, especially when we have had a week where there were 39 rollcall votes one day and some 20 the next or the day before, everybody back behind these halls that we do not see, the reporters—I never like to take advantage of that. But I have an important measure, Mr. President.

(The remarks of Mr. SIMPSON and Mrs. FEINSTEIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1394 are located in to-

day's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, JESSE BROWN

Mr. SIMPSON. Let me just now refer briefly to my work on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I chaired that committee.

Mr. President, each and every day the Secretary of Veterans Affairs apparently greets his employees with a memo on their computer. Usually that memo recognizes the accomplishments of individual employees, notes the significance of a particular date in terms of this country's military history, or exhorts VA employees to a higher level of service to America's veterans. Nothing at all wrong with that.

But, on August 21, the Secretary took a leap beyond that boundary. In that day's message, he launched into his old stump speech about the woeful VA budget. About the same time, he also communicated with all VA employees by means of a similar message printed on their own personal pay stub.

I ask unanimous consent that these messages be printed in the RECORD.

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

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY JESSE BROWN
PRINTED ON A RECENT VA EMPLOYEE PAY
VOUCHER

The Administration and the Congress have outlined dramatically different budget approaches designed to balance the budget, reduce taxes, and create a leaner government. As I have been telling the nation's veterans organizations this summer, the Administration's plan is much better for veterans and their families. The President recommended a good FY 1996 VA budget, with a \$1.3 billion increase, including nearly \$1 billion for health care. On the other hand, the House of Representatives has approved a plan to increase veterans health care \$563 million by taking money from our construction account and preventing us from building badly needed hospitals in Florida and California, hospitals which the President proposed be fully funded. And we will lose some of the money we need to renovate older facilities. The House also voted to stop compensation to some incompetent veterans. This is nothing but a means test that will push some service-connected veterans into poverty. We hear a lot these days about making sacrifices. We need to point out that veterans and their families have already paid their dues.

SECRETARY BROWN'S MESSAGE SENT AUGUST 21, 1995

This is what our veterans' budget future boils down to: the President has proposed a 10-year plan to eliminate the deficit, while protecting critical programs. He has proposed no new cuts in veterans entitlements. Congress has adopted a budget resolution outlining a 7-year plan to eliminate the deficit, which would be devastating to veterans' programs. The President has recommended a \$1.3 billion increase in VA's FY96 budget, nearly a billion of which is targeted to veterans' health care. The congressional budget resolution effectively freezes VA funding for veterans' health care at 1995 dollar levels for the next 7 years. This means eliminating

61,000 health care positions by 2002 and denying care to more than a million veterans. The House budget would also cancel plans for two badly needed VA replacement hospitals in central Florida and northern California. When it comes to meeting veterans' needs, gratitude and penny-pinching don't mix.

SECRETARY BROWN'S DAILY MESSAGE ON
OCTOBER 6, 1995

I am being attacked publicly for telling you through various forums what is going on with our budget. Rest assured I do not intend to stop. I believe VA employees had a right to know about the public and Congressional debate on VA's future and the impact our lawmakers' decisions can have on benefits and services for veterans. Is this a partisan endeavor? Absolutely not! As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, I have a responsibility to keep you informed on issues that affect your careers, livelihood and roles as members of the VA team. And certainly I have the right to let our valued constituency—veterans and their families—know that their programs may be adversely affected. It is important that employees be made fully aware that tens of thousands of VA jobs may be eliminated over the next seven years as a result of current budget proposals. I am not calling on you to act, but I think you have the right to know the facts. Stay tuned!

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, these messages, and their distribution to all VA employees, are highly political, and seem to me to be wholly inappropriate.

They all state a biased, partisan perspective of the Department's budget and its implications. This is a perspective with which I wholeheartedly disagree.

Nothing new in that either. Reasonable men can disagree.

However, my disagreement regarding the effects of the Congressional budget for veterans' programs is fully supported by a General Accounting Office [GAO] analysis of the budget conducted for the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

GAO documented that, on the merits themselves, Secretary Brown's criticisms of the VA budget which was approved by the Congress are indeed "exaggerated."

GAO also points out that if Secretary Brown were to analyze the President's budget using the same assumptions he used when he analyzed the budget approved by the Congress, he would find that veterans are better off under the Congressional budget—than under the President who appointed him.

In short, Mr. President, veterans should not be misled. Veterans are better off under the budget that Secretary Brown is attacking than they are under the President's budget he is defending.

Please hear that clearly. The VA knows this. The Secretary knows this.

Secretary Brown complains that the Congress will force him to close hospitals. What he doesn't tell us, and what he doesn't tell the VA employees who are pretty much compelled to read his daily ration of propaganda, is that, using the very same pessimistic assumptions, the President's own budget would require him to close 6 additional hospitals than he would have to close

under the Republican Congressional budget. Hear that too.

Secretary Brown then uses—rather misuses—the power of his fine office to scare the wits out of VA employees, and the veterans they serve, by asserting that the Congressional budget would “force” VA to treat fewer veterans.

What he does not tell them is that under his budget, using these very same pessimistic assumptions, again VA would provide 283,000 fewer outpatient visits—and treat 12,500 fewer veterans—than VA would be treating under the very Congressional budget he is attacking. Hear that.

In short, Mr. President, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is playing plenty fast and loose with the facts in order to divert attention away from the tough and necessary budget decisions made by our President. He is our President. I find that offensive.

That is cheap politics and demeans his office. But, it is certainly not unheard of in this town.

What is absolutely unacceptable is his use of taxpayer funded VA resources to place his purely political message in the hands of every VA employee—and on the screen of every single VA computer when it is cranked up every morning.

What is absolutely unacceptable is his use of the full authority of his office, and the latent power of his supervisory position over VA's 240,000 employees, to add to the weight of his opinions. Stump speeches are for out on the road Mr. Secretary, not for the taxpayers' computers.

Mr. President, Secretary Brown has stepped right up to the plate of public service and there are now two strikes in the count.

Strike one is found right there in Secretary Brown's message.

It is distorted and it is wrong. And the distortions serve a clear political purpose. The distortions serve to create the impression that this Republican Congress is hell bent on—and is—harming our veterans.

Strike two is found in Secretary Brown's delivery.

He piously then states that he is not trying to provoke any action on the part of VA employees. He is not “calling on you to act” he says, in the computer.

No, not much. He is only keeping his loyal employees informed of what is happening in Washington. But let us just think about that a moment, Mr. President. These messages are on employee pay slips. What do you think the average worker in America would think if their pay slip included a message from their boss attacking the Congress?

I do not know about others, Mr. President, but it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that many employees might take that as a pretty good hint to take some action or at least say something to somebody. Come on.

If it talks, walks and quacks like a duck, it is probably a duck. And Secretary Brown's belated attempt to put some latter invented public service label on his inappropriate lobbying cannot pluck the feathers from the manipulative and political duck he has hatched out.

Why do we think Secretary Brown is keeping in such close touch with his myriad empire of employees—240,000 of them to be exact? Just being a genial communicator of the morning hour? Maybe like Don Imus? Give us a break.

I have been here now for 17 years and I have never seen a VA Administrator or Secretary—Democrat or Republican—misuse VA's internal communications methods in this blatant fashion.

It is wrong.

It should stop.

The World Series is over, Mr. Secretary, and you already have these two big strikes against you. But you should put down your big bat, reflect a bit, cease abusing your fine office in this fashion and step up to the plate one more time.

And this time, Mr. Secretary, do not resort to unfortunate distortion and childish scare tactics in a desperate attempt to enlist America's fine veterans to be used—and that is the word—“used” as point men to try to turn back a historic effort to protect the future of the next generation by balancing the budget of those living in this one.

When you do that, you dishonor yourself and you dishonor the veterans you profess to serve. And many of them do not believe you any more. That is sad.

Mr. Secretary, finally, those of us who are veterans served to protect the future of our country. I am very proud to have been one. We served to provide for a better future for our children and grandchildren. The budget you take pleasure in attacking is an honest and forthright budget that keeps faith with America's veterans by keeping faith with America's future.

If a balanced Federal budget is to be defeated by the ugly forces of reaction and fear, then all that America's veterans fought to achieve will also be lost.

If this very stirring movement for a truly balanced Federal budget is turned aside, whether or not you agree with it, then all the sacrifices of the servicemembers who died or were wounded in the service of our country will have been in vain. It sounds dramatic, does it not? No more dramatic than the words the Secretary uses in his standard stump speech.

If we fail to balance this Federal budget, the inevitable collapse of the American economy will destroy the future that we American veterans wanted to ensure.

This inevitable collapse of the American economy will also destroy the ability of our country to be able to fund the benefits upon which many veterans depend.

So, Mr. Secretary, when you face that third pitch, there is a message that you can share with America's veterans on the taxpayer's computers linking up with the 240,000 VA employees who are committed to serve them.

You can tell them about the strength of America's commitment to her veterans and the willingness of the Congress—Democratic and Republican alike—to reinforce that commitment with hard bucks.

During my own time here in the Senate, I have watched the budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs nearly double—from \$20 billion in 1978 to nearly \$40 billion now.

And that growth will only continue. Indeed, even under the rigorous budget constraints applicable to us today, the VA budget is anticipated to increase by nearly \$4 billion more under these evil Republicans by the year 2002.

And the growth in the VA health care budget has been real growth. We are not just “keeping up” with inflation. In the time I have been in the Senate, the number of VA physicians has increased by 9.6 percent.

The number of VA Registered Nurses has increased by 40 percent.

The total Veterans Health Administration staff has increased by 10.8 percent. These are real increases in the real numbers of real health care professionals who provide real increased services to real veterans. Forget the other hokum the Secretary puts out in the old stump speech and remember we are talking about real, real things.

In contrast to the proposed Congressional, that is Republican budget, which protects VA health care spending to the fullest, the President's budget proposes a reduction in the veterans' health care account. Hear that.

The Secretary knows that too. And it irritates him greatly because he knows the President is on mighty thin ground with many veterans anyway.

The budget the President has sent to the Congress would actually reduce VA health care spending from \$16.2 billion in 1995 down to \$15.4 billion at the turn of the century. The Secretary knows that.

Secretary Brown is caught complaining about a budget with no reductions while at the same time ignoring his own President's budget which would provide \$337 million less bucks than the Congressionally approved budget he is continuously and hysterically attacking.

I have said to Secretary Brown in the past: “Every man is entitled to his own opinion—but not to his own facts.” These are the cold hard unrefuted facts.

This Nation has been absolutely unstinting in its support of her veterans over the years. No Nation on earth has been more generous to her veterans. Why is it this Secretary never acknowledges that? He should.

Our own Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, so ably chaired by my old

friend Senator KIT BOND, recently reported out an extremely generous budget for veterans—to include a \$285 million increase over fiscal year 1995 for veterans' health care.

Items eliminated from the budget, as originally requested in it, include hospitals in East Central Florida and Travis Air Force Base, CA.

In a consensus document expressing the views and estimates on the administration's budget proposal, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee expressed its own reservations about the need for this additional construction of infrastructure at a time when the veteran population is declining at a rate of 2 percent per year. The GAO recently reported to Congress that with the veteran population declining—even in Florida—there is no documented need whatever for another VA hospital there. We take awfully good care of our veterans. We should—those who bore the battle and their widows and orphans.

So let it be recorded that I personally was incensed, as I know some VA employees were, to see the partisan political message the Secretary sent out to his troops on August 21. I consider it grossly wrong to use employee's pay vouchers or access to the VA computer system to circulate that type of hoorah.

Secretary Brown may—and I think often does—perceive his mission to be a purely political one, to toe the line for this President. But he steps over that line when he uses his access to, and his control over, the taxpayer provided resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs as a means to preach a political message to his civil service subordinates. It is wrong and he knows it is wrong.

Mr. President, Secretary Brown owes it to the veterans he serves, to the Congress, and to the Department he leads, to change his course away from a path of politicized, distorted and exaggerated rhetoric on the stump speeches and toward a course of statesmanlike and steady leadership.

Mr. Secretary, you are now headed toward treacherous shoal waters and it is long over due time for a change in course. Many of us will be watching more closely than ever before.

Save the politics for when you no longer serve in this type of position of trust.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mrs. FEINSTEIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1389 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ROLAND L. "SONNY" MAPELLI

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last month, the University of Denver College of Law opened the Mapelli Brothers' Place in the Yegge Student Center. Mapellis' Place recognizes the wonderful contribution the Mapelli family has made to Colorado and Denver University. It was in commemoration of the Mapelli family who has given so much to the State of Colorado, and particularly to Denver University. It also commemorates the fact that a number of years ago, in the World War II era, the Denver University Law School used to be adjacent to the Mapelli Meat Market. A generation of Colorado attorneys took their legal education within the sight and the sound, and even the smell, of that meat market. Perhaps it even influenced those attorneys throughout their career.

The Mapelli family is typical, I think, of American families who have contributed so much to this Nation. The Mapellis started their meat market in 1906 and, one by one, the brothers were drawn over from Italy coming to this country, some as small children, literally coming on a boat with a name and a location pinned on their clothes, and they would eventually find their way to Denver, CO.

Their story is a story of success for hard workers. To me, the Mapelli Law School will also be a reminder of Sonny Mapelli. He is someone I worked for for many years, and his example of love and devotion to community serves as an example for all Coloradans and, yea, even Americans, for what someone can accomplish when they love their country and love their community and make a project of serving it.

The Mapelli meat market used to be adjacent the Denver University College of Law when it was located in downtown Denver. A generation of attorneys received their legal education within the sound, sight, and smell of the Mapelli meat market.

To me, the Mapelli Place will always call to mind Roland L. "Sonny" Mapelli. Sonny passed away on January 19, 1995, but the memory of his warmth and wisdom will stay with all who knew him.

Sonny and his brother, Gene, were owners-operators of Mapelli Brothers Co. which was founded by their father and his brothers in 1906. In 1969 Mapelli Brothers Co. merged into Monfort of Colorado. Under Sonny's direction, 50 Mapelli Food Distributing Co. branches

were operated throughout the United States. Sonny was also owner-operator of Mapelli Farms & Ranches.

Sonny was a faithful and devoted husband and father. He was devoted to his faith and believed in serving his community, State, and Nation. Sonny also served on several boards ranging from Loretto Heights College in Denver to Colorado State University Land Council in Ft. Collins and Norwest Bank in Greeley. He was a member of the Colorado Cattle Feeder's Association, Mountain/Plains Meat Association, and the National Cattlemen's Association.

Sonny received numerous awards. He received the Knute Rockne Award for outstanding civic achievement in 1961 as well as Who's Who in Finance and Industry in 1984. He was honored by the Colorado Meat Dealers as Man of the Year in 1975; by the Longs Peak Council, Boys Scouts of America as Weld Distinguished Citizen of 1994, along with many other distinguished awards.

Sonny had a distinguished military career. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in August 1942. He subsequently served 3 years overseas with the 8th Air Force, serving in the European Theater in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland campaigns. Sonny was commissioned a warrant officer in London, England, in 1944. He received a Commendation for Outstanding Achievements from the 8th Air Force commanding general. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1945 and remained in the U.S. Air Force Reserve until 1955.

You could not see Sonny and not come away with a smile on your face. Colorado voters loved him and elected him to the Denver City Council from 1955 to 1959. He was appointed to the State House of Representatives for 1961-62 and won election to the State Senate in 1962 by the largest margin of anyone in Denver.

Sonny's remarkable success in business and politics came from his genuine concern about others and a wonderful sense of humor. All who came in contact with him felt a little better about themselves and the world.

Everyone has their favorite Sonny story. They reflected his common sense, his love of others, and an extraordinarily humorous view of the world. When you write out his stories, though, they lose something. It was not so much the story itself that was funny, but Sonny Mapelli himself. Without him those stories and perhaps our lives lack some of the sparkle that makes life a joy.

Sonny Mapelli is survived by his wife Nomie, and daughters Terri DeMoney and Jerri Gustafson; by his grandchildren Travis, Tyler, and Lindsey DeMoney, and Drew and Karly Gustafson; and by his brother, Eugene Mapelli.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.