

We in North Dakota have a lot to look forward to from the NDSU women's program in the future. All but the two seniors will be returning, and this team knows what it feels like to win. For now, though, we can just savor the feeling of having national champions in our midst.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, the skyrocketing Federal debt—which long ago soared into the stratosphere—is in a category somewhat like the weather—everybody talks about it but almost nobody had undertaken the responsibility of trying to do anything about it until immediately following the elections last November.

When the 104th Congress convened in January, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a balanced budget amendment. In the Senate only one of the Senate's 54 Republicans opposed the balanced budget amendment; only 13 Democrats supported it. Thus, the balanced budget amendment failed by just one vote. There will be another vote later this year or next year.

As of the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 8, the Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at exactly \$4,856,502,980,514.90 or \$18,435.37 for every man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

YOUNG AMERICA

Mr. COHEN. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to the captain and crew of *Young America*, which as many of my colleagues know, is the yacht that came very close to winning the Defenders' series of the America's Cup competition on April 26.

Young America, owned by the Maine-based PACT '95 syndicate and originating out of my hometown of Bangor, was very strong in the competition but was beaten in the finals by America's Cup veterans and past victor, Dennis Conner and his boat, *Stars & Stripes*.

While *Young America's* captain, Kevin Mahaney, did not have Dennis Conner's experience, he sailed boldly and impressively and displayed the kind of leadership and perseverance for which Mainers are renowned. Kevin had captured the silver medal in sailing at the 1992 Olympics, but it was his first America's Cup competition. He and his crew sailed with excellence throughout the competition.

Last summer, before Kevin even had a boat to compete in, he started to assemble a crew with John Marshall, head of the PACT '95 syndicate. Marshall was an experienced sailor and former crew mate of Dennis Conner in past America's Cup bids. Even so, many people on the sailing circuit did not assign much credibility to their efforts and saw little threat from their entry. However, Mahaney and Marshall and the crew they assembled soon

made yachting enthusiasts begin to take notice of the boat from Bangor.

This is not to say that *Young America* encountered smooth waters during its ascent to the top ranks of yachting. Mahaney had to rely heavily on the tenacious crew that he assembled to overcome obstacles and make it as far as they did.

Young America's bid for the cup was threatened last January when a tornado ripped through the compound where it was stored, causing extensive damage to the boat. In March, bad luck struck again when *Young America* suffered significant structural damage while being towed through heavy waves. This damage was particularly ill-timed, and the crew had to rush to make repairs in the final days before the Defender semifinals. John Marshall saw the silver lining in these clouds and commented that the times of hardship were when the crew really came together as a team.

Ironically, the crew that worked so hard to bring *Young America* to the forefront of the yachting world had the bittersweet experience of now seeing their boat compete against New Zealand in the America's Cup finals without them aboard. Shortly after his victory, Dennis Conner, full of admiration for Mahaney's triumphs, asked John Marshall if he and his crew could sail *Young America* in the final competition. Diplomatic to the last, Marshall honored his request. He said that both the crews from *Stars & Stripes* and *Young America* will emerge as victors if the Americans beat New Zealand.

The quiet but determined efforts of Kevin Mahaney and his crew justifiably make Mainers proud. While they are not manning the boat that is competing against the New Zealand vessel this week, everyone's mind will be on the come-from-behind boat known as *Young America*.

RECOGNIZING BILLINGS, MT, POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Postal Service in Billings, MT. As is the case most of the time, we know how to do it right in Montana.

Billings' delivery of overnight first-class mail is first in the Nation, No. 1. The lucky residents of Billings received their mail 94 percent on time, the country's highest performance level this year. The score also ties for the highest mark achieved by any city since the measurement began. In an era when public and private mail volume continues to increase, I am proud of the ability of the Billings Postal Service to rise above the rest and top the Nation.

I would like to congratulate and thank everyone involved in the mail process in Billings for serving Montana and our Nation with such capability.

PROTECTING MEDICARE

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, yesterday before the Senate Finance Committee I spoke about the importance of the Medicare Program to Montanans. I would like to take this opportunity to share those comments with the entire Senate.

There being no objection, the comments were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Mr. Chairman, here in Washington, people often lose the forest for the trees. I'm afraid we may be doing just that on Medicare. So I hope we can begin by remembering what life was like for older Americans before Medicare.

The fact is, before we created Medicare, our senior citizens lived in fear.

Everyone over sixty knew that private insurance was shaky and expensive at best, and would cost them more every year.

And a serious illness—or even a common ailment that required treatment but did not threaten life—was not only a health problem, but something that could reduce a whole family to poverty.

Today, Medicare has removed that fear from our lives. Those of us with short memories have forgotten it ever existed. But let me tell you about some people who don't.

Two weeks ago I spent some time at the Seniors Center in Great Falls, Montana. The people at the center know exactly what Medicare and Social Security mean to their lives.

It means a little financial security. Some faith that illnesses will be treated and that families won't be wiped out by the cost. A hundred and twenty-five thousand Montanans are eligible for Medicare, and each one of them knows exactly what Medicare means.

Listen to Margaret and Frank Jackson of Billings, who wrote me last week:

"Social Security and Medicare are not only necessary, they are absolutely essential to our survival in Montana. Higher costs such as higher property tax, increase in school levies, fuel in a cold climate, and medicine take a toll. There is just too much month at the end of our money. Needless to say, additional cuts would put a burden on us."

Or Joyce Hert, also from Billings:

"I am 58 years old and for the past 18 years have had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, emphysema, Renaud's Disease, degenerative arthritis and a disease of the connective tissue. . . . My medication costs approximately \$677 a month* * *. Please don't turn your back on those of us who need Social Security and Medicare."

The leadership now proposes something like \$250 billion in Medicare cuts. It is staggering. It is a reduction of nearly a quarter in Medicare services by the year 2002. And to add insult to injury, the House would do it in part to pay for tax cuts for Americans who are already very wealthy. Some in the Senate want to do the same.

What would it mean if this happens?

Montana Medicare beneficiaries would pay up to \$800 more a year out of their own savings. These are people who live on fixed incomes, and eight hundred bucks is an awfully big bite.

We would see thousands of operations and hospital stays put off.

Thousands of people would decide to go without home health care.

And, as the federal government cut reimbursement, more rural hospitals would be pushed to the edge, forced to choose between serving their patients and remaining solvent. Some Montana hospitals get 60% of their

revenue from Medicare. This plan would hit them like a wrecking ball.

Now, it may well be that we need to make changes in the Medicare program. We must be realistic.

The answer is not, however, to simply approach Medicare reform as a budget cutting exercise. Because we are talking about preserving essential health services for 125,000 senior citizens in Montana and thirty million seniors across America.

We are talking about good, middle class Americans like the Jacksons.

And above all, we must not use Medicare as a piggy bank. Don't take money that buys health care for senior citizens and use it for a tax break for rich individuals and big corporations. That is disgraceful.

Perhaps some changes lie ahead. But if they do, they should be made for the single purpose of keeping Medicare services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. It is an issue of good faith on the part of the government, and basic, essential health services for Americans.

RETIREMENT OF GEORGE K. ARTHUR

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Madam President, yesterday's Buffalo News reported the forthcoming retirement of Buffalo, NY, Common Council President George K. Arthur, after four decades of public service. Mr. Arthur, who has been Common Council President since 1983, is a distinguished public servant who has given much to the people of Buffalo. I know I speak for the people of Buffalo in offering George Arthur great thanks and congratulations. He will indeed be missed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the article from the Buffalo News be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Buffalo News, May 8, 1995]

POLITICAL LEADERS PRAISE ARTHUR'S ENDURING LEGACY

(By Anthony Cardinale)

George K. Arthur will leave a legacy of lasting achievement as Common Council president when he steps down on Dec. 31, several political observers said Sunday.

Never mind the decade of Common Council friction with then-Mayor James D. Griffin, who reserved his most stinging invective for the Council president and took particular delight in defeating Arthur's challenge for the mayor's office 10 years ago.

Arthur's proudest hour as a politician was when he beat the Democratic incumbent for the Democratic Party's endorsement in 1985, these observers agreed. And he would have ousted Griffin from City Hall, they added, if it weren't for the votes siphoned off by Nicholas Costantino as an independent candidate.

Arthur, 62, who announced over the weekend that he won't seek re-election, was first elected to the former Erie County Board of Supervisors in 1963. He was elected Ellicott District Council member in 1969, then Council member at large, and he has been Council president since 1983.

"I believe it's probably the longest political career of anybody in our area," said Vincent J. Sorrentino, Erie County Democratic chairman.

"He was part of the emergence of the black community into the mainstream of the political process in our community—he and

(Council President) Delmar Mitchell a little before him," said Joseph F. Crangle, Sorrentino's predecessor at the party helm.

"His leadership was instrumental in helping much of the rebirth of Buffalo," said Arthur O. Eve, deputy Assembly speaker, who pointed to measures to improve Buffalo's housing stock and quality of life.

Accolades for Arthur even came from Council Member Alfred T. Coppola of the Delaware District, who has often clashed with him—and who now wants to succeed him as Council president.

"We've disagreed on various projects, but we've also agreed on some," said Coppola, who has asked Sorrentino for his backing.

"George has always been a unique person," Coppola went on. "He's always been a gentleman. There were times when George pulled us together. He'd say, 'Let's sit around a breakfast table and let it all hang out on a Saturday morning.' Those were terrific meetings."

Arthur's ability to bring together dissenting parties was the common theme Sunday of those who have worked with him over the years.

"George did an excellent job in helping to forge together a very diverse group of men and women into a fairly cohesive body," Eve said. "That takes a lot of talent, patience and compassion."

Eve said he will work to help Council Majority Leader James W. Pitts become the next Council president.

"We certainly will miss (Arthur) as the Council president," Eve said, "but I'm in hopes that Jim Pitts will emerge as his replacement and the tradition that George Arthur started will continue and hopefully will grow."

Sorrentino, who reportedly supports Pitts, also credited Arthur as a consensus builder.

"He had a great quality of being able to bring consensus into very hostile situations—especially during the Griffin years," he said. "His leadership will be missed at these difficult times."

Sorrentino said he recently had breakfast with Arthur and learned then that he had all but decided to retire after this year.

"And I said, 'if you do, we certainly expect you to play a role in the campaign.' While he'd be retiring as president of the Common Council, he's not retiring from politics."

All four observers rejected the notion that Arthur had slowed down in recent years, no longer the civil rights firebrand who once joined the plaintiffs in the school desegregation suit and supported two other discrimination suits against the city's fire and police force.

"Very often with age comes wisdom—you're more prudent how you express things," said Crangle. "You put things in more perspective and focus than you did when you first started out."

Crangle said he greatly admires Arthur for standing up against Griffin.

"He was one of the towering strengths of the Democratic Party in City Hall," he said. "He did not get intimidated; he didn't in any way yield. And many times it was very lonely."

Coppola said that was when Arthur's "professionalism" shined brightest.

"There were moments when George was the acting mayor in some of the tougher years when Jimmy Griffin was really playing hardball," Coppola said. "And George never took advantage of the situation, especially when the mayor was out of town."

The former mayor was asked Sunday for his comment on Arthur's decision to retire.

"I wish him luck," Griffin said. "I wish him and his family the best."

THE MOSCOW SUMMIT

Mr. PELL. Madam President, today President Clinton is joining President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Major, Chancellor Kohl, and President Yeltsin in Moscow to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. That is as it should be. Together, after all, the United States, France, Britain, and the Soviet Union rid the world of the Nazi menace.

The anniversary of Allied triumph over the Nazis carries great significance for us all. For the Russian people, who lost more than 20 million of their fellow citizens during the war, this commemoration is particularly meaningful.

Now that the cold war is over, the allies have the opportunity to stand together again—this time to build a new Europe—democratic, whole, and free. The gathering of the five leaders in Moscow today should be seen as a commitment to that goal.

We have an enormous stake in Russia. United States engagement with Russia since the breakup of the Soviet Union has yielded significant results—particularly with regard to the reduction of weapons of mass destruction and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Europe. It is in the U.S. national interest to see that this process proceeds. Russian reformers offer the best prospect for continued progress on the issues that really count for the United States. Accordingly, we should be doing what we can to bolster Russia's democrats.

President Clinton has come under fire for going to Moscow at a time when Russia is pursuing some policies to which the United States is opposed. I believe this criticism is short-sighted and for the most part, politically motivated. Some of the same people who are criticizing the President for going to Moscow are also demanding that the administration deliver a tough message to Moscow about its behavior in Chechnya, its proposed sale of a nuclear reactor to Iran, and its views about NATO expansion. What better way to deliver the message than to go to Moscow and do it personally?

By going to Moscow, President Clinton is demonstrating to Russian leaders the benefits of continued engagement with the West. If he had decided to cancel his trip, President Clinton would be missing an opportunity to tell President Yeltsin and other Russian leaders—face to face—where he believes Russian policy is on the wrong track.

That being said, we should not have any illusions about our ability to change Russian policy overnight. We must be realistic. Russian leaders, like their counterparts worldwide are political creatures. With parliamentary elections looming at the end of this year, and Presidential elections scheduled for 1996, few Russian politicians want to be perceived as buckling to Western pressure. Russian nationalists, whose influence is regrettably on the