

A payment that cannot be linked to supporting documentation is an unauthorized payment. It may not be legitimate.

Without documentation, we do not know how the money was used.

That is my concern, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Pentagon bureaucrats have an unblemished record of mismanaging the peoples' money.

Now, is it smart to give a bureaucratic institution like the Pentagon that cannot control and account for the use of public money more public money—as some of my colleagues propose?

DOD should not get any extra money until it cleans up the books.

More money is not the answer. Better management is. •

A TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM H. ACEBES ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY

• Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, today I want to congratulate Command Sgt. Maj. William H. Acebes on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Army.

Command Sergeant Major Acebes began his Army career 30 years ago when he completed basic training at Fort Polk, LA. I am pleased to note that he completed his advanced individual training in my home State of Georgia, at Fort Gordon. Since then, he has served in virtually every non-commissioned officer leadership position.

Overseas, Command Sergeant Major Acebes has served numerous tours of duty with United States Forces in both Europe and Asia. In Germany he was assigned to the Berlin Brigade and later, to the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Forward) at Bad Toelz. During the Vietnam war, he served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and was an advisor with the United States Army Military Assistance Command. His most recent overseas assignment was in South Korea, where he was the command sergeant major of the 2nd Infantry Division.

Bill Acebes' stateside assignments have included serving as the first sergeant of Headquarters Company and the command sergeant major of the 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Ranger Regiment. Also, he served as the battalion command sergeant major for the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2d Brigade, 24th Infantry Division, at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Since 1992, he has served as the U.S. Army Infantry Center Command Sergeant Major at Fort Benning, GA.

During his 30-year Army career, Bill Acebes has received numerous awards and decorations in recognition of his exemplary service to the United States. These awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry.

I know of no soldier who sought more tough, demanding assignments than Bill Acebes. I also know of no soldier who has spent more time with the infantry—with infantry soldiers and families, than Bill Acebes. Whenever our country called, over a 30-year period, Command Sergeant Major Acebes answered. His leadership and talents will be missed.

Mr. President, I ask our colleagues to join me in thanking Command Sergeant Major William H. Acebes for his distinguished service to the Army and people of the United States. •

COMMERCIAL SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to commend the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] for the statement yesterday on the need to develop a timely solution for the management of spent nuclear fuel from the Nation's 109 commercial nuclear power plants.

As the new chairman of the Energy Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI has already assumed a leading role in examining America's policy on high-level radioactive waste management and I appreciate the chairman's ongoing commitment to change that policy to ensure that we continue to make progress in a program so vital to the national interest.

Mr. President, the United States has struggled to fashion a workable policy on high-level radioactive waste disposal since the Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed amendments to that act to direct the Department of Energy to study Yucca Mountain in Nevada as a likely repository site. A cadre of world-class scientists have been conducting first-of-a-kind experiments at Yucca Mountain to determine if the site is suitable for the ultimate disposition of spent nuclear fuel from civilian nuclear reactors as well as defense high-level radioactive waste.

Electric consumers have committed \$11 billion since 1983 to finance these studies, a total that includes \$563 million collected from consumers of nuclear electricity generated in South Carolina. Unfortunately, the year 2010 is the earliest possible date that a repository might be ready to accept spent fuel.

In the meantime, nuclear power plants across the country are running out of capacity to store spent fuel. By 1998, 26 plants will have exhausted existing capacity to store spent fuel, including the Oconee and Robinson plants in South Carolina.

In addition to designating Yucca Mountain, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act made the Federal Government responsible for taking title to spent nuclear fuel beginning in 1998.

In order to meet its obligations, therefore, the Federal Government must now develop a temporary storage

facility for spent fuel from the Nation's nuclear power plants. In just 3 years DOE is scheduled to assume responsibility for the spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants. It must begin planning now to build and operate a facility to fulfill that obligation.

Legislation introduced in both the Senate and House would develop an integrated approach to spent fuel management, including the construction and operation of a single Federal facility to store spent fuel until a permanent solution is available. Legislation in both Chambers identifies the sensible location for such a storage facility—the Nevada test site.

This Federal facility is the most logical location for such an interim site. It borders Yucca Mountain, a remote, unpopulated, and arid location in the Nevada Desert. Moreover, the site is on land that has been dedicated to underground nuclear testing for more than 40 years, and thus appropriately dedicated to a project like this one.

Building a central storage facility at the Nevada test site does not prejudice the question of whether Yucca Mountain is suitable, but there are tremendous advantages to locating it there. Among the most appealing is ease of transportation of the spent fuel from storage facility to repository.

Building a central storage facility that is operating by 1998 and a repository by 2010 will save electric consumers \$5 billion over the life cycle of the waste management program. These cost savings will be further enhanced, primarily through ease of transportation, if the storage facility is located near the repository site.

Mr. President, the time has come to address the problems that have plagued the Department of Energy's nuclear waste management program. We can take the first step this year by authorizing and using funds already contributed by electricity consumers to develop a central storage facility in Nevada. •

DESECRATION OF THE U.S. FLAG

• Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit for the RECORD the memorializing resolutions from the States of Washington, Hawaii, and Oregon calling on the Congress to pass an amendment to the Constitution that protects the United States flag from desecration. I think these resolutions are a wonderful reminder that the movement and support for an amendment to protect the flag begin at the grassroots level. Up to this point, 49 States have passed memorializing resolutions in support of a flag protection amendment. I ask unanimous consent that the texts of these resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

STATE OF WASHINGTON: SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

Whereas, Although the right of free expression is part of the foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn

limits on expression in specific instances have long been recognized as legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

Whereas, Certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency, public peace, and the rights of expression and sacred values of others; and

Whereas, There are symbols of our national soul such as the Washington Monument, the United States Capitol Building, and memorials to our greatest leaders, which are the property of every American and are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

Whereas, The American Flag to this day is a most honorable and worthy banner of a nation that is thankful for its strengths and committed to curing its faults, and remains the destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal; and

Whereas, The law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes the reverence, respect, and dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment of a nation-state; and

Whereas, It is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a forceful call for a restoration of the Stars and Stripes to a proper station under law and decency;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the Congress of the United States propose an amendment of the United States Constitution, for ratification by the states, specifying that Congress and the states shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; be it

Resolved, That certified copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted by the secretary of state to the president and the secretary of the United States Senate, to the speaker and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of this state's delegation to the Congress.

STATE OF HAWAII, HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 142

Whereas, the flag of the United States is the ultimate symbol of our country and it is the unique fiber that holds together a diverse and different people into a nation we call America and the United States; and

Whereas, as of May, 1994, forty-three states have memorials to the United States Congress urging action to protect the American flag from willful physical desecration and these legislations represent nearly two hundred and twenty nine million Americans, more than ninety percent of our country's population; and

Whereas, although the right of free expression is part of the foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn limits on expression in specific instances have long been recognized as legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

Whereas, certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency, public peace, and the rights of other citizens; and

Whereas, there are symbols of our national soul such as the Washington Monument, the United States Capitol Building, and memorials to our greatest leaders, which are the property of every American and are therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

Whereas, the American Flag is a most honorable and worthy banner of a nation which

is thankful for its strengths and committed to curing its faults and remains the destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal; and

Whereas, the law as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes the reverence, respect, and dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment of a nation-state; and

Whereas, it is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a forceful call for restoration to the Stars and Stripes of a proper station under law and decency; and

Whereas, as increasing number of citizens, individually and collectively, in Hawaii and throughout the nation, have called for action to ban the willful desecration of the American flag; and to ignore the effect of this decision would be an affront to everyone who has been committed to the ideals of our nation in times of war and in times of peace; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1995, the Senate concurring, That this body respectfully requests each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation, with the specific purpose of urging the Congress of the United States to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution, for ratification by the states, providing that Congress and the states shall have the power to prohibit the willful physical desecration of the flag of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, SENATE
JOINT MEMORIAL 1

Whereas although the right of free expression is part of the foundation of the United States Constitution, very carefully drawn limits on expression in specific instances have long been recognized as legitimate means of maintaining public safety and decency, as well as orderliness and productive value of public debate; and

Whereas certain actions, although arguably related to one person's free expression, nevertheless raise issues concerning public decency, public peace, and rights of expression and sacred values of others; and

Whereas there are symbols of our national soul such as the Washington Monument, the United States Capitol and memorials to our greatest leaders that are the property of every American and therefore worthy of protection from desecration and dishonor; and

Whereas the American flag is a most honorable and worthy banner of a nation thankful for its own strengths, committed to curing its faults, and the continued destination of millions of immigrants attracted by the universal power of the American ideal; and

Whereas the law, as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court, no longer accords to the Stars and Stripes that reverence, respect and dignity befitting the banner of that most noble experiment of a nation-state; and

Whereas it is only fitting that people everywhere should lend their voices to a forceful call for restoration to the Stars and Stripes of a proper station under law and decency; now, therefore, be it *Resolved* by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Congress of the United States is memorialized to promptly propose an amendment to the United States Constitution specifying that Congress and the several states shall have the power to prohibit the

physical desecration of the flag of the United States of America.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.●

RUSSIAN SALES OF SUBMARINES
TO IRAN AND CHINA

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, the sale of Russian submarines to Iran and the People's Republic of China have the potential to significantly jeopardize regional stability and pose a grave threat to international trade. The United States must take a firm stand on this issue.

Iran, which borders the Straits of Hormuz, has obtained two and is expected to take delivery of a third Russian *Kilo* class submarine. These submarines, particularly when armed with the wake-homing torpedoes that the Iranian's have tested, are optimized to cut off the passage of merchant shipping through the straits. Roughly 50 percent of the oil in international trade passes through these straits. Any interruption of this supply would result in an international energy crisis, and a sustained interruption would have dramatic economic consequences.

We must ask ourselves, "why are the Iranian's developing this capability?" Could the answer be that they wish to close the straits? Clearly, it is not in our national interest to allow a country which sponsors international terrorism to do this, holding the world's oil supply and the key to the global economy hostage.

The People's Republic of China is also buying modern Russian submarines. For what purpose? Their lawless efforts to seize control of the Spratley Islands already indicate an intent to control the South China Sea. Are these submarines intended to bolster this effort or are they intended to threaten our friends in Taiwan?

As an island nation, Taiwan is desperately dependent on the free passage of shipping. If this were to be threatened or cut off, the Taiwanese economy would flounder. Would we, should we, allow this to happen? I think not. Taiwan is our sixth largest trading partner and, unlike the People's Republic of China, a democratic state.

Since 1776 the United States has supported the freedom of navigation and must continue to do so. Twice in this century a country with a relatively small submarine force caused havoc with the merchant shipping of free nations. This can not happen again.

The United States does not build submarines for foreign nations and neither should the Russians. We must increase our efforts to discourage the Russians from proliferating this, as well as other, dangerous technology and we must vigorously maintain our supremacy in antisubmarine warfare capabilities. Furthermore, we must make it absolutely clear to Iran and the People's Republic of China that the United