

serving his last day of a 12-month assignment as the Director of Senate Affairs for the Secretary of Defense. During this and previous assignments over the past decade in the legislative affairs offices of the Department of the Navy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense [OSD] and in Senator GRAMM's office, many of us have come to know Bob Meissner well and he has earned the admiration and respect of Members on both sides of the aisle.

Legislative liaison is often a thankless job. Interpreting the Pentagon to the Congress and the Congress to the Pentagon is certainly no easy task. There is a well-known tendency in Washington to shoot messengers of bad tidings. Commander Meissner has had to convey bad news both to Members of Congress and to senior Department of Defense officials on many occasions. The fact that he has survived to his retirement, and not only survived, but thrived and continually advanced in responsibility, is testament to his grace, skill, honesty, and strong commitment to excellence in carrying out his duties.

Commander Meissner also brought a keen sense of humor to the job, which is probably an essential qualification for any legislative liaison officer. I am sure that many of my colleagues would join me in saying that Commander Bob Meissner represents the epitome of the Pentagon legislative liaison officer and we will miss his contributions to our joint effort with the Pentagon to advance our Nation's security.

Let me briefly now summarize Commander Meissner's career as a Naval officer.

Commander Meissner holds a master's degree in government with distinction, from Georgetown University, and is a graduate of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government's Senior Officials in National Security Program. His military experience includes four operational carrier deployments, two with an air antisubmarine squadron and two as a strike operations officer with the ship's company, a staff assignment as aide and executive assistant, post graduate studies, and several joint duty staff assignments. He is an antisubmarine warfare mission commander in the S-3A aircraft and qualified as an underway command duty officer.

In October 1983, as the U.S. task force's only on-scene strike operations officer, Commander Meissner singularly scheduled and planned the weapons for all Navy tactical combat air missions during the first 5 days of the successful Grenada Operation Urgent Fury. Two months later he was cited for his extraordinary contribution in the successful execution of the December 1983 retaliatory air strike over Beirut and the Bekaa Valley. In March 1985, Commander Meissner reported to the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs as a Senate liaison officer, where he assisted the Office of the Secretary of the Navy on political and leg-

islative issues before the U.S. Senate. In early 1987, he was selected to serve on the Secretary of Defense's Legislative Affairs staff as an Assistant, responsible for weapon systems' procurement legislation.

After the U.S.S. *Stark* was attacked in the Persian Gulf in May 1987, Commander Meissner became Secretary of Defense Weinberger's legislative point of contact to Congress on the Kuwaiti reflagging and escort issue. Within 9 months, he coordinated over 50 congressional briefings and hearings, made 10 trips to the region with 28 Members of Congress, and was cited by Congressmen, U.S. State Department officials, and Middle East foreign leaders for his efforts in promoting the administration's successful Persian Gulf policy. He assisted in writing a section of the Persian Gulf chapter of former Secretary of Defense Weinberger's book, *Fighting for Peace*.

In March 1988, he was selected by the Secretary of Navy as the first naval officer to receive a LEGIS congressional fellowship. He was assigned to the personal staff of Senator PHIL GRAMM, then the ranking member on the Armed Services Defense Industry and Technology Subcommittee, and served as his senior defense advisor and National Security Affairs legislative assistant. Upon completion of his fellowship, Commander Meissner returned to OSD [Legislative Affairs], where he assumed the responsibilities of the assistant for research, development, test and evaluation.

In June 1990, he was promoted to Director for House Affairs, where he provided direct liaison between the Secretary of Defense and the U.S. House of Representatives. In early 1991, Commander Meissner left the OSD staff and reported to the President's General Advisory Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament as its Executive Director. Commander Meissner returned to OSD [Legislative Affairs] in January 1993 and assumed responsibility for the Research and Technology legislative portfolio with particular emphasis on representing the Advanced Research Projects Agency [ARPA] and the administration's dual-use and technology reinvestment programs.

In May 1994, Commander Meissner assumed his current position as the Director of Senate Affairs for the Department of Defense. Commander Meissner has lectured at the Naval Postgraduate School and the Defense System's Management College on civil-military affairs and congressional relations.

His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal [fourth award], and several unit commendations, expeditionary, and service ribbons. Bob is married and resides with his wife, Denise, in Falls Church, VA.

Our Nation, the U.S. Navy, the Department of Defense as a whole, and especially his wife, Denise, can truly be

proud of Commander Meissner's many accomplishments. A man of his extraordinary talent and integrity is rare indeed. While his honorable service will be genuinely missed in the Department of Defense and here in the Senate, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Comdr. Bob Meissner before my colleagues and send him all of our best wishes in his new and exciting career.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the skyrocketing Federal debt, which long ago soared into the stratosphere, is in a category like the weather—everybody talks about it but scarcely anybody had undertaken the responsibility of trying to do anything about it. That is, not 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'll be another vote later this year or next year.

As of the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 13, the Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at exactly \$4,901,416,297,287.27 or \$18,605.86 for every man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

#### COL. THOMAS W. SHUBERT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Col. Thomas W. Shubert, a man many of us know through his duties working in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison, Congressional Inquiry Division.

During his tour in the Congressional Inquiry Division, Colonel Shubert established a reputation for dependability and professionalism, and was firmly committed to helping us resolve issues involving our constituents and the Air Force. Additionally, Colonel Shubert lent support to many Members of both Houses on fact finding trips throughout the world.

Mr. President, Colonel Shubert is an individual who reflects the highest standards of the Air Force and I am confident that he will distinguish himself in his new post as the Senior Military Advisor and Air Attache to Denmark.

#### COL. MICHAEL V. HARPER

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the career and accomplishments of Col. Michael V. Harper, who is retiring after 26 years of distinguished service to the Army and the Nation.

Colonel Harper began his career as a Distinguished Military Graduate when

he graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1969 and was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry. In the months following his graduation from Infantry Officers Basic School, Lieutenant Harper earned two of the Army's most cherished qualification badges, airborne wings and a Ranger tab. After a tour with America's famed Honor Guard, the 82d Airborne Division, Colonel Harper was ordered to the Republic of Vietnam where he was assigned to the 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 327th Infantry, setting in motion a career that would bring him many commands and responsibilities.

Among his many assignments over the next two decades, the colonel served as: commander, A Company, 18th Infantry; Executive Officer, 1st Battalion (Mechanized) 36th Infantry at Friedberg, Federal Republic of Germany; and, he commanded the 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 16th Infantry at Fort Riley, KS. In addition to his troop leading time, Colonel Harper attended the Command and General Staff College and the Naval War College; served as a staff officer and Chief of the War Plans Division; and finally, as Director of the Chief of Staff of the Army's personal staff group. In his capacity as General Sullivan's staff director, Colonel Harper helped the Chief of Staff transform the Army from a Cold War, forward deployed force into a power projection force ready to defend the Nation anywhere. Colonel Harper's keen insight, sound judgment, and able intellect have made a lasting contribution to the future of the Army and the continued security of the Nation.

Mr. President, Colonel Harper has been a model soldier throughout his career. He embodies the traits that the military expects of those who choose to serve: integrity; loyalty, selfless service; and, concern for soldiers. He is a man who has served the Nation well and he has our appreciation for his dedication and sacrifices over the past 26 years. I join his friends and colleagues in wishing him good health and great success in the years to come.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND DEREGULATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 652, the telecommunications bill, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 652) to provide for a procompetitive, deregulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

(1) Dorgan modified amendment No. 1264, to require Department of Justice approval for regional Bell operating company entry into long distance services, based on the VIII(c) standard.

(2) Thurmond modified amendment No. 1265 (to amendment No. 1264) to provide for the review by the Attorney General of the United States of the entry of the Bell operating companies into interexchange telecommunications and manufacturing markets.

Subsequently, the amendment was modified further.

(3) Feinstein-Kemphorne amendment No. 1270, to strike the authority of the Federal Communications Commission to preempt State or local regulations that establish barriers to entry for interstate or intrastate telecommunications services.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I believe the Senator from Mississippi is waiting to speak, and I have some business to take care of, which we are going to make some corrections on. I urge all my colleagues to bring their amendments to the floor. We are trying to move this bill forward. We are trying to get agreement on a lot of the amendments, and we are working feverishly on several amendments that we hope we can get agreements on. Those Senators who wish to speak or offer amendments, I hope they will bring them to the floor.

We do have the vote on the underlying Dorgan amendment at 12:30 p.m. and we will be looking forward to having several stacked votes later in the afternoon.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1265, AS MODIFIED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to speak in opposition to the Dorgan-Thurmond amendment that would put the Department of Justice into the middle of this telecommunications entry question. This issue really is being pushed primarily by the Department of Justice but, of course, a number of long distance companies are very much interested in it, and they are asking that the Justice Department be given a decisionmaking role in the process of reviewing applications for the Bell company entry into the long distance telephone service.

A grant of that type of authority to the Justice Department, in my opinion, is unprecedented. It goes far beyond the historical responsibility of Justice. It is a significant expansion of the Department's current authority under the MFJ, and it raises constitutional questions of due process and separation of powers. In short, I think it is a bad idea.

Who among us thinks that after all the other things that we have put in this telecommunications bill that we should have one more extremely high hurdle, and that is the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department, which would clearly complicate and certainly delay the very delicately balanced

entry arrangement that is included in this bill, and that is the purpose of the amendment. It is one more dilatory hurdle that should not be included.

The Antitrust Division of the Justice Department has one duty, and that is to enforce the antitrust laws, primarily the Sherman and Clayton Acts. It has never had a decisionmaking role in connection with regulated industries. The Department has always been required to initiate a lawsuit in the event it concluded that the antitrust laws had been violated. It has no power to disapprove transactions or issue orders on its own.

While the U.S. district court has used the Department of Justice to review requests for waivers of the MFJ, the Department has no independent decisionmaking authority. That authority remains with the courts. In transportation, in energy, in financial services and other regulated businesses, Congress has delegated decisionmaking authority for approval of transactions that could have competitive implications with the agency of expertise; in this case, the FCC.

The Congress has typically directed the agency to consider factors broader than simply the impact upon competition in making determinations. This approach has worked well. Why do we want to change it? It contrasts with the role Justice seeks with regard to telecommunications and the telephone entry. Telecommunications is not the only industrial sector to have a specific group at the Justice Department. It has antitrust activity in a transportation, energy and agriculture section, a computers and finance section, a foreign commerce section and a professions and intellectual property section.

The size of the staff devoted to some of these sections is roughly equivalent to that devoted to telecommunications and, I might add, it is too many in every case. If we want to do a favor to the American people, we should move half the lawyers in the Justice Department out of the city and put them out in the real world where they belong, working in the U.S. attorneys' offices fighting real crime. But, no, we have them piled up over in these various sections and, in many cases, in my opinion, not being helpful; in fact, being harmful.

If the Department has special expertise in telecommunications such that it should be given a decisionmaking role in the regulatory process, does it not also have a special expertise in other fields as well? Today's computer, financial services, transportation, energy and telecommunications industries are far too complex and too important to our Nation's economy to elevate antitrust policy above all other considerations in regulatory decisions.

The Justice Department, in requesting a decisionmaking role in reviewing Bell company applications, for entry into long distance telephone service, seeks to assume for itself the role currently performed by U.S. District