

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The distinguished Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. THURMOND. I want to express my appreciation to the able Senator from Idaho for the kind words he had to say about my service as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Senator KEMPTHORNE has been a devoted, able member of that committee and has rendered the defense of this country great service. Our country is indebted to him for all that he has done to promote a strong defense in this Nation. Again, I am proud of his friendship and proud of his service to his Nation.

Mr. President, I understand this has been cleared on the other side of the aisle. I have been authorized to yield back all debate time on the Defense authorization conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THURMOND. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 6, the Federal debt stood at \$5,220,377,655,156.41.

One year ago, September 6, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,969,749,000,000.

Five years ago, September 6, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,623,922,000,000. This reflects an increase of more than \$1,596,455,655,156.41 during the 5 years from 1991 to 1996.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADM. EDWARD M. STRAW

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Vice Adm. Edward M. Straw, U.S. Navy, who will retire on October 25 after a distinguished 35-year career. Admiral Straw will relinquish control of the Defense Logistics Agency, which is also known as the DLA, on the day he retires. He has served as Director of the DLA since 1992.

DLA is the largest combat support agency in the Department of Defense. If it were a private company, it would be the 78th largest company in the Fortune 500. Admiral Straw's performance

in directing 50,000 civilian and military members, and in managing \$14 billion in annual funding, has been recognized both inside the Department of Defense and in the private sector as a model of highly effective management. Under his leadership, DLA became one of the first Federal agencies ever to win a Ford Foundation Innovations in Government Award.

During his tenure, Admiral Straw re-engineered and completely revamped the DLA. His fine efforts have saved our \$10 billion to date, and are expected to yield an additional \$20 billion in savings and cost avoidance over the next 6 years while significantly improving responsiveness to customers.

Admiral Straw began his military service in 1961 when he was commissioned upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. He served numerous sea duty assignments and held senior policy positions within the Department of the Navy. These include Vice Commander, Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer of the Naval Supply Systems Command, and Director of Supply Policy and Programs on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. In 1994, he organized and successfully conducted the Defense Performance Review. He will also receive the Society of Logistics Engineers' annual Founders' Award for 1996, later this year.

Mr. President, our Nation owes Admiral Straw its appreciation for his truly distinguished service. I wish him and his wife, Chris, continued success and happiness in all future endeavors.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, under a unanimous consent agreement, the Senate has obligated itself to consider the Chemical Weapons Convention later this week.

The timing is fortuitous. Getting the Senate to this point has taken much longer than was needed or one would have hoped, but, if the Senate does indeed decide this week to consent to the ratification of the convention, we will be in on the setting up of the organizations required by the convention—a conference of all the states parties, a 41-member executive council, and a technical secretariat, which will be the international body responsible for conducting verification activities.

As of this point, 62 nations have ratified the convention. The convention will enter into force 180 days after it gains the 65th party. If the Senate acts now, our action will enable us to be in on every aspect of the setting up of the convention. Moreover, we will surely bring others with us and, thus, help ensure widespread adherence to the treaty and do much to ensure its effectiveness.

This treaty represents a serious and important step in our continuing effort to curb and to end the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction to us, our friends and allies, and to the world.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, when it enters into force, will ban the

production, acquisition, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.

In it each state party undertakes never, under any circumstances, to:

Develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, or retain chemical weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to anyone;

Use chemical weapons;

Engage in any military preparations to use chemical weapons; and

Assist, encourage, or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a state party under this convention.

It is very important that we be involved every step of the way. Particularly important is our involvement in a leading role during the 180-day period when so much is done to prepare for the entry into force of the treaty. Simply put, during this crucial period for the treaty, we simply cannot afford to be on the outside looking in. If we stay out, we will have no say over the activities of the governing body. We will not be involved in the establishment of the inspection regime, which, if done as envisaged, could be very important in providing information as to the presence or absence, worldwide, of chemical weapons programs. If we are not a party, we will certainly avoid having the minor inconvenience of international inspections in our country, but at the price of having no expert Americans on inspection teams worldwide looking for illicit chemical weapons activity.

These would be major prices to pay for failure to participate in this important undertaking. There is another major price to be made if we do not become a party. Our failure to join the treaty would constitute a major body blow to our critically important chemical industry, which supports ratification in overwhelming numbers.

The problem that failure to ratify would cause for the industry was put clearly to the Committee on Foreign Relations by the president of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, Mr. Frederick Webber, who said:

Mr. Chairman, honest businesses have nothing to fear from this treaty. On the contrary, the real price to pay is for not taking action. The United States, as I am sure you know, is the world's preferred supplier of chemical products. Chemical exports, last year, topped \$60 billion. Indeed, we are the leading exporting industry in America.

Those exports, that \$60 billion figure, sustained 240,000 high-paying American jobs throughout the land. That makes us the nation's largest exporter. More than 10 cents of every export dollar is a product of the chemical industry.

We are a fast, reliable, high-quality supplier to customers in every corner of the globe. But we could lose that distinction, we could lose it if the U.S. does not ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Convention sharply restricts trade in chemicals with countries who are not parties to the treaty. If the Senate does not ratify, our customers will cut us off. They will drop us, and find other suppliers.

Unfortunately, we will be lumped in the same categories as nations like Libya, Iraq, and North Korea. We do not believe this is an acceptable option.

The critics like to say that this treaty imposes too many burdens on business. They say that opening our plants to inspections will mean forfeit our most important trade secrets. It is a good story, if it were true, but it is not.

Yes, the Convention does open our plants to inspection. But it also offers state-of-the-art protections for confidential business information. This treaty will not reveal our secrets.

Indeed, it will protect them. We know, because we helped develop the inspection system. Then we put the system to the test over and over again. We learned what works and what does not. We found the gaps, and we believe that we have plugged them.

Mr. Chairman, let me cut to the bottom line. The benefits of this inspection system far outweigh the costs. The rewards outweigh the risks. The treaty may not provide an iron-clad guarantee that chemical weapons will not ever again be a threat, but it does have teeth. It will provide a real deterrent. It is the best available option.

The Convention strikes a balance. It is tough, but it is fair. It is intrusive, but it is not stifling. It asks a lot, but in return, it offers a significant reduction in the threat of chemical weapons.

Mr. President, I find the points raised by industry and the issue of U.S. involvement in activities that really are at the heart of our national interests to constitute in themselves compelling reasons for us to be very, very careful before giving any serious thought to a turning down of this treaty. Today and over the next several days, I'm sure that Senators will be bombarded with arguments for and against this treaty. I would like to draw my fellow Senators attention to a very thoughtful analysis provided the committee by Dr. Brad Roberts this year. Dr. Roberts, who has spent a considerable time assessing issues related to the treaty, spoke in full recognition of some of the concerns that have been raised. He said:

In sum then, the CWC certainly is not perfect, and anybody who has told you it is, is blowing smoke. The relevant question for this committee, though, is simply: Is it good enough? Is the treaty in the national interest?

If you believe, as I do, that it is better to narrow the proliferation threat, than to let it spiral out of control, which is where it is headed, that the only chemical weapons that matter to the United States are those that pose real military threats, that it is better to share verification and compliance tasks and to have on-site access, than to go it alone on these matters, that it is better to add relatively modest regulatory burdens to industry than to jeopardize its long-term competitiveness, that it is better to create more tools to deal with the proliferation threat of the post-Cold War than to have fewer, and if you agree that it is better to share the burden of managing this problem than to saddle the United States alone, then support the CWC.

It is not perfect, but it is largely up to us to define and manage its risks through our military programs, our anti-chemical protection systems, our own national verification capabilities, a task that is far easier than coping with the risks of a world of much broader chemical and perhaps biological proliferation, and the difficult challenges that would result to U.S. interests, capabilities, and leadership.

Mr. President, I know my fellow Senators will weigh this treaty very care-

fully before deciding how they wish to vote. I deeply believe that a positive vote is the correct one for our national interests. I hope very much that most of my fellow Senators will reach the same conclusion.

STRENGTH FROM DIVERSITY

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a most insightful address on religious tolerance and freedom delivered by Radm James R. Stark, president of the Naval War College, at Touro Synagogue in Newport, RI on August 25.

Admiral Stark has had a distinguished career, serving our Nation with great dedication and a strong commitment to the enduring principles upon which our country was founded. His address exemplified the principles of George Washington now memorialized today on the 30-cent stamp issued in August 1982 to commemorate the Touro Synagogue: "To bigotry no sanctions. To persecution no assistance." These same words were in George Washington's letter to Moses Seixas and the Touro Synagogue community.

Let me share Admiral Stark's concluding remarks:

Today, we have the opportunity to rejoice in the success of the Touro congregation to be treated like any other citizens, and to celebrate in the wisdom of George Washington and the other founding fathers, who realized that our diversity did not have to breed hate and suspicion and discrimination, that our "unlikeness" did not prevent us from being good citizens in a society of mutual trust, and respect, and consideration. Rather than being a weakness, America's diversity has become our strength.

I ask unanimous consent that Admiral Stark's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

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

REMARKS OF RADM. J.R. STARK, USN

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'm so pleased to see you all here. I want to start out by saying how honored I am to be addressing you today.

When Governor Sundlun asked me to speak a few weeks ago, I leaped at the opportunity—first, because I've been interested in Touro Synagogue since I was first stationed in Newport back in the '60's. And second, because we're here to commemorate an event which is of such importance, that it resonates still today across the length and breadth of America.

That event was an exchange of letters between the warden of Touro Synagogue and President George Washington over 200 years ago. Some may say, what's the big deal? What's so important about an exchange of letters? They're not even legal documents. They're just a couple of pieces of paper, written by people long dead—people who hadn't a clue about life in the last 20th century, people who never imagined the airplane, or the internet, or MTV. Even their language seems stilted and old-fashioned—and the issue of religious freedom really doesn't appear to be especially relevant today, does it? So what?

But we know better, don't we. Those letters had an impact that went far beyond the little community of 18th century Newport.

But, you know, this celebration is about more than just letters. It's about 200 years of history, and a very special, almost unique series of events that redirected that history which took place here in the days when the United States of America were still young and searching for what this new concept called democracy really meant.

Several years ago, I was in command of a Navy cruiser on its way from California to the Persian Gulf. It was a long trip—it took us six weeks to sail halfway around the world. And as we neared the end of our voyage, we stopped for fuel in the ancient port of Cochin, on the southwest coast of India. In the course of my visit, I was able to do some sightseeing. I came across a Catholic church, nearly 500 years old, where the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama was buried in 1524, soon after "discovering" India. But I also visited another building nearly twice as old. It was the Jewish synagogue, which had been founded in first century A.D. by Jews fleeing Jerusalem after the destruction of the Second Temple—Herod's temple—by the Romans. To me, it was a tangible illustration of how long and how far the Jewish people have been forced to wander in their search for a decent life.

Interestingly, history tells us that—except for their periodic revolts in Judea—Jews fared well under the Roman empire. They were merchants and craftsmen who were welcomed wherever they settled. And by the end of the Roman era, strong Jewish communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Even after the fall of Rome, Jewish settlements continued to spread—first into Western Europe, and then, after the 12th century, into the East.

But as time went by, the attitudes of their hosts changed. The hard work, the education, the cohesion, and especially the success of those Jewish communities created jealousy and resentment. Jews who had been welcomed because they brought needed skills and built the local economy gradually changed from being neighbors to being outsiders, tolerated when necessary and persecuted when it became convenient.

More and more restrictions were placed on Jews. As commerce and skilled trades expanded during the Middle Ages, the guild system was used to exclude Jews from a growing number of vocations. They were prohibited from owning land. They were restricted from universities. They were required to live in certain urban districts—the ghettos.

Rather than being the mainstay of regional and international commerce, as they had been for centuries, in many areas the only jobs open to Jews were as itinerant craftsmen or as moneylenders to all levels of society.

But success in finance and the emerging business of banking and credit carried its own dangers. When local businessmen made poor decisions—or kings had to borrow money to finance everything from wars to jewelry—they became more and more indebted to the very people they had forced into being their bankers.

And when it came time to repay those debts, it was a lot easier to spread rumors of witchcraft and secret rites, launch a wave of pogroms, expropriate Jewish businesses, cancel the debts, and then expel the Jews.

And that's exactly what happened over and over during the Middle Ages. In 1290, Edward the First of England solved his debt problems by expelling the Jews. They were to remain barred from England for the next 350 years, until the time of Oliver Cromwell. A hundred years later, in 1394, they were expelled again, this time from France. A similar fate befell the Jews of Spain in 1492, and those of Portugal in 1497. Some were forcibly