

afraid to repeal it, and they're afraid to obey it."

Hollings insists it's not wounded pride of authorship that has him shouting into the wind. The important issue is not the technical violation but the disaster it hides. Says Hollings:

"Everybody is wringing their hands about what will happen on Social Security seven years from now, or in the year 2025, or whatever. The problem is here and now. We are broke right now. Not Social Security. Social Security is paid for. Medicare is paid for. It's the general government—defense and the rest of it—that's not paid for. And because it's not, interest on the debt is running about a billion dollars a day. And here's the point: There's just no amount of spending cuts and loophole closings and freezes that is going to produce a savings of a billion dollars a day.

"Unless we raise taxes, we are just 'fiddling while Rome burns.'"

He says it, knowing that a call for a tax increase (while his colleagues debate the size of the tax cut) is, if not suicidal, at least politically dangerous.

"Look, we all have to run for reelection, and we all take polls," he said. "To do what I'm doing is sheer stupidity—unless you can get a movement going to face up to what has to be done."

Unfortunately, no such movement seems in the offing. The people are in a mood to punish any politician who tells them the truth as they know the truth to be about our fiscal disorder. It's time to pay the piper. And that's the truth.●

PEACEMAKERS ARE UP AGAINST AN UNDETERRED CHINA

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, our policy toward China is, in the words of our colleague from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, one of zigzagging.

I want to have a good relationship with China, but I do not want it at expense of a free Taiwan that has a free press and a multiparty system.

Recently, I read an excellent column by Georgie Anne Geyer, who has had a great deal of experience in the field of international relations.

Her comments on the China situation should be of interest to all of my colleagues, as well as their staffs, and I ask that they be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

The column follows:

PEACEMAKERS ARE UP AGAINST AN UNDETERRED CHINA

WASHINGTON.—Now, let's see if I understand this:

Last summer, the more-or-less communist government in Beijing (population China: 1.2 billion) set its People's Liberation Army loose to make Taiwan (population: 21 million) sit up and take notice. First, Beijing stirred things up a bit by conducting ballistic missile tests off the Taiwanese coast—not exactly a neighborly act.

Then, the Chinese leaders provided Ambassador Charles Freeman, a specialist on China who was visiting Beijing this winter, with the astonishing news that they were seriously considering launching missile strikes on Taiwan this spring every day for a month. Freeman, who was for many years in our Beijing Embassy, took their warnings most seriously, and in a recent speech at The Heritage Foundation, went so far as to say:

"These exercises are not an empty show of force. They are a campaign of military in-

timidation that could, and may well as the coming year unfolds, extend into the actual outbreak of combat in the Taiwan Strait and even strikes against Taiwan targets."

So what do our doughty leaders here do? Well, these warlike growls from Beijing did not seem very nice at all (wasn't China supposed to become capitalist now, anyway?). At first, our responses were just the kind the frontal-assault Chinese like to evoke in barbarians: ambiguous. The new American ambassador to Beijing, former Sen. James Sasser of Tennessee, went so far as to suggest, when asked at a press conference in Beijing what the United States would do if the Chinese did attack Taiwan, that, aster all, we had long recognized that Taiwan was a part of China . . .

And how the Chinese smiled behind their missiles.

Then, for once in the past three years of China-bungling, the administration actually did the right thing. On Dec. 19, it quietly sent the USS Nimitz to the Taiwan Straits, the politically treacherous waterway between Taiwan and China. This was important: It marked the first time American ships had patrolled the straits since the Nixon/Kissinger "peace" with China in 1976.

It is hard to ignore the Nimitz, if only because the nuclear-powered U.S. carrier comes with five escort ships equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles. But the master chess-playing Chinese also understood perfectly: This was exactly the way they had always played the "Great Game" in Asia.

Ah, but then the White House got cold feet over having done such an awful thing. "No, no, not us," they said—in effect. "We didn't send that big bad Nimitz. (Would we do such a thing? Nobody here but us peacemakers.)" No, the decision to sail in waters that, for political reasons, we had not entered for 17 years had been made by the ship's commander alone—and that was because of bad weather in alternate waters.

Now, unfortunately or fortunately, Hong Kong has an active weather bureau, and those officious fellows there immediately took on what was clearly none of their business and said the weather had been just fine in those days. And so the Chinese, who don't know much about us either, wrote the whole thing off as just "more American lying."

In the end, the threat was dispensed with, the Chinese remained undeterred, and American policy toward China was and is as imprecise and lacking in consensus as ever (Secretary of State Warren Christopher did not even mention the word "China" in a recent major foreign-policy address at Harvard).

Let us try to make some sense of all this: China and, indeed, all of Asia are at a turning point whose outcome will assuredly shape the form of Asia, and our interests in it, for the next 20 years. In China, as Deng Xiaoping comes to the end of his life. President Jiang Zemin is becoming more and more hard-line (he has even been wearing the once-hated Mao suits). Increasingly he has been placating the hard-line People's Liberation Army.

Gerrit Gong, director of Asian Studies for the Center for Strategic and International Studies here, recently met with the military command in Beijing, and told me that he sees the military pressures on the government as becoming intense. "The older military feel that the revolution is not over," he said, "and that their comrades' blood must still be vindicated. They want to send a message to Taiwan and Japan that they're still strong."

The Taiwan elections in March, plus Beijing's fear of American recognition of a potentially "independent" Taiwan, are what drives the Chinese. With their studied ob-

streperousness, blended with the constantly reinforced belief that they can bluff this administration, they are playing two games: (1) to threaten and contain the United States, and (2) to diminish the international standing or independent dreams of little, but rich Taiwan.

Emboldened by no real American policy—and now assured by the White House that the Nimitz was just "off course"—Beijing this last week took the first steps toward setting an actual timetable for the "reunification" of Taiwan with the mainland—after Hong Kong in 1997 and Macao in 1999. This is serious business.

Our former ambassador to Beijing, James Lilley, who understands these games, shakes his head at the seeming "mystery" that so many here see in how to deal with them. "The Nimitz was exactly the right signal to China," he told me. "The sea is our battleground. Actually we are in the catbird's seat—but we are letting ourselves be jerked around."●

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPARROW HOSPITAL

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, MI, on its 100th anniversary. Sparrow Hospital has a long and activist history of serving the people of mid-Michigan.

In 1896, a group of dedicated young women met at Lansing's Downey Hotel to discuss the growing need for a community hospital. Armed with sheer determination, the 114 charter members of the Women's Hospital Association opened an 11-bed hospital. The women's dream of hospital ownership was realized with the purchase of the James Mead House on North Cedar Street in 1899.

Realizing that a larger health care facility was needed to meet the demands of the growing Lansing area, Edward W. Sparrow, one of Lansing's pioneer developers, whose wife was a member of the Women's Hospital Association, donated the \$100,000 and land at 1215 E. Michigan Avenue to build a new hospital. Two years later, on November 6, 1912, the 44-bed Edward W. Sparrow Hospital opened its doors. At the dedication ceremonies, it was avowed that the purpose of the new hospital was "receiving, caring for and healing the sick and injured, without regard to race, creed or color."

Sparrow Hospital has continued to live up to its avowed purpose. Sparrow is a not-for-profit organization, guided by volunteer boards, comprised of people who represent a wide spectrum of the community. Since 1896, Sparrow has provided care to mid-Michigan residents regardless of their ability to pay.

Through the efforts of its founders and many others, Lansing's first health service has grown to become today's Sparrow Hospital. Sparrow Hospital currently has over 600 physicians, nearly 3,000 associates and 1,400 volunteers in a comprehensive health system for an eight-county population of nearly 1 million people. Each year, Sparrow Hospital treats over 120,000 people.

The spirit of volunteerism has made Sparrow Health System a very special organization, an organization where service to the community comes first. I know that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Sparrow Hospital on its 100th anniversary.●

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in recess until the hour of 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, and following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, and the Senate then begin a period for the

transaction of routine morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each with the following exceptions: 20 minutes for Senator DOMENICI, 15 minutes for Senator MURKOWSKI.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, there will be an attempt to turn to the legislation to extend the authority for the Special Committee To Investigate Whitewater and other items that are cleared for action. Therefore, rollcall votes could occur

tomorrow, Wednesday, February 28; also a second cloture petition was filed on the D.C. appropriations conference report. That cloture vote will occur, as I just announced, on Thursday at a time to be determined.

RECESS UNTIL 11:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:17 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 11:30 a.m.