

NATO—are in the process of dramatically reducing the size of their ground forces. Such developments could have adverse consequences for the future of NATO, and require ever-increasing U.S. military contributions to the Alliance to compensate for European shortfalls. In such developments continue, NATO's ability to fulfill its commitments under Article 5 of the "NATO Charter" could be called into question.

As Chairman of the AirLand Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee—the Subcommittee with primary jurisdiction over NATO and the European Command—I will need information from the Department of Defense in order to assess the impact on the United States of the issues raised in the enclosed article. In particular, I am concerned about the long-term plans for meeting our NATO commitments in light of the reductions planned by our European allies; the need for increased U.S. military contributions to the Alliance to offset the European reductions; and the adequacy of current U.S. force structure planning to meet our NATO commitments in light of these changes.

During a time when NATO expansion is being actively considered, by some, these issues must be thoroughly examined. I ask that you provide your assessment as soon as possible in order for my Subcommittee to incorporate this information into its upcoming budget review and schedule of hearings. I am hopeful your reply will be detailed, as I view the representations in this article with deep concern.

SENATOR THURMOND APPOINTS ROMIE L. BROWNLEE AS NEW SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DIRECTOR

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I compliment the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator THURMOND, for his selection of Col. Les Brownlee as the new staff director of the Armed Services Committee. Colonel Brownlee has served me with extraordinary professionalism for 12 years. He brings to this position a record of significant achievement as a highly decorated career military officer for his valor in combat, service with the Army Secretariat, special assistant to the undersecretary of the Army, and many other qualifications.

I wish to compliment the chairman for the selection of Colonel Brownlee, who, although he has been in my employ, so to speak, for a dozen years, now will owe his total allegiance to the chairman and all other members of the committee. I was so pleased when Chairman THURMOND consulted me on this nomination that he had in mind some days ago. Of course, I strongly recommended Colonel Brownlee, and I am pleased that the chairman did select him from the strong field of candidates to become the staff director.

Colonel Brownlee is well known throughout the Senate and the staffs. He has worked here by my side and by the side of many others, including Senators Tower, Goldwater, NUNN, and many members of the committee, in the preparation of our legislative responsibilities, which have been discharged here on the floor through these many years. I would like to think that

the men and women in the Armed Forces on active duty today, and, indeed, the retired military, will receive with pride the news that one of their own, one who has distinguished himself so well in uniform, as well as in service to the committee, has been selected to this very, very important post.

I add, Mr. President, the fact that while Colonel Brownlee had not in any way actively looked at outside opportunities because he is a strict adherent to the rules of conflict of interest here, it was clear to me in our conversations that, in all probability, having spent 12 years on the committee and having many years before him of useful and productive life, thoughts were given to the more lucrative opportunities that are frequently offered by the private sector. But he clearly decided, once again, on the offer to serve his Nation, serve this Senate, and indeed serve the Armed Forces of the United States. The call came, and he responded unhesitatingly.

I ask unanimous consent that the press release accompanying the announcement by Chairman THURMOND be printed in the RECORD.

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

THURMOND APPOINTS NEW SASC DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, FEB. 27, 1996.—Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Strom Thurmond (R-SC) today appointed longtime committee staff member Romie L. Brownlee as the new Staff Director for the Committee.

Brownlee, a retired Army Colonel, has worked on defense issues in the Senate since 1984, when he began his career in the Legislative Branch as a National Security Assistant to Senator John Warner (R-VA), and then joined the Committee in 1987 as the Deputy Staff Director for the Minority. Before being named Staff Director, Brownlee was responsible for handling issues related to the Army and Marine Corps land forces, Special Operations Forces, and drug interdiction.

"Les Brownlee is extremely well qualified to serve as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, as he is a man with a keen intellect and proven abilities," said Thurmond. "He is widely respected by senior members of the armed forces, by Senators serving on the Armed Services Committee, and by his fellow staffers. We are fortunate to have him as our new Director."

A native Texan, Brownlee was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry following his 1962 graduation from the University of Wyoming. Brownlee served two tours in Vietnam, including one as a Company Commander with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. During his career, Brownlee earned a number of decorations including two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. In subsequent years, Brownlee would hold postings that included serving as Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 36th Infantry, and at the Pentagon as the executive officer for the Under Secretary of the Army. He earned a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Alabama, graduated from the Army War College, is a distinguished graduate from the Army's highly demanding Ranger Course, and is an Honor Graduate of both the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, and the Command and General Staff College.

Brownlee is replacing retired Brigadier General Richard Reynard, who is resigning

from his position as Staff Director to return to the private sector.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NEW MEXICO, THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, once again, 1 of our 50 is missing. If that seems like an enigmatic statement, bear with me a little longer. I have a story to relate to you that proves true once again the adage that truth is often stranger than fiction.

On Tuesday of this week one of my constituents, a man named Wade Miller, of Santa Fe, NM, called the Olympic ticket office in Atlanta, GA, in the United States—Atlanta, GA, USA. He was calling them to request tickets for the Olympics, I say to my friend from New York. Instead, imagine his surprise when he was told that since he was calling from New Mexico with his request, he would need to consult with the Mexican or Puerto Rican Olympic Committees in order to get tickets—not the Olympic office in Atlanta, which, I repeat, is in Georgia, USA.

Keep in mind that the area code for New Mexico is 505. The area code for Atlanta is 404. I checked it myself, and this does not register as an international call. If it was, my poor constituent, who argued with them for a half hour to 45 minutes trying to convince them that New Mexico was, indeed, in the United States, would have a real telephone bill. There was even some debate about old Mexico versus New Mexico. But when all was said and done they still told him that, no, you cannot buy any tickets from us. You have to get them from either the Mexican or Puerto Rican—they were not sure, I guess—Olympic office.

Finally, Mr. Miller produced a mailing address in Arizona and asked if his tickets could be mailed to that address. They established on the phone that yes, Arizona was in the United States and that tickets could be sent there. Alas, the identity crisis for New Mexico, USA, seems to continue. And while I'm pleased we could all agree that Arizona, our distinguished neighbor to our west, is a State, I must point out that New Mexico was actually a State even before Arizona, although not by much.

So, as the Senator from New Mexico—although I guess the Olympic Committee would simply call me a delegate, not a Senator—I must once more rise to refresh everyone's memory. New Mexico—that large span of land between the oil wells of Texas and the saguaros of Arizona—is in the United States. I flew home during the last recess and they did not book me on an

international flight, nor did I need to pass through customs on my way. And while my passport is in order, I can assure you I did not need it to land at Albuquerque International Sunport.

I might also remind the Senate, and also the Olympic organizers in Atlanta, that New Mexico was admitted to the Union as the 47th State in January 1912. It lies directly south of Colorado, east of Arizona, west of Texas, and north of the Mexican border. Let me repeat, north of the Mexican border. You may know it as one of the larger pieces in jigsaw puzzles of the United States.

In fact, New Mexico has one of the longest histories of any State in the Union, starting with our ancient Indian cultures, almost four centuries of Hispanic ancestry, and nearly 200 years of American settlement. It is a dramatic land of scenic vistas and 1.5 million proud citizens.

And let me remind the Olympic office that we had good reason to be proud during the last Olympics, for we had a great champion from New Mexico—Trent Dimas, who earned a gold medal in gymnastics. When Trent Dimas won this medal, it wasn't "O Fair New Mexico," New Mexico's State song, that was played during the ceremony. They played the National Anthem of the United States—surely an indicator that even in the context of the Olympics, New Mexicans are proud U.S. citizens. And those New Mexican athletes who visit the State of Georgia this summer to attend the Summer Olympics will do so as citizens of the United States, cheering our other terrific American athletes.

Let me wrap up by assuring the Atlanta ticket office that we in New Mexico are well practiced in the use of U.S. currency. We, too, use the dollar and not the peso. We're also well accustomed to potable drinking water and to driving our cars on the right side of the road. And I can't even imagine that those unique Southern accents will give New Mexicans any trouble.

So today, I put a little note in Senator NUNN's and Senator COVERDELL's mailboxes, asking them if they would do us a favor in New Mexico and vouch for us to the Olympic Committee in Georgia—and I'm assuming that would be Georgia, USA, not Georgia, Russia. Perhaps they could each send a note to the good people of Georgia to remind them that New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment, is a State. No need to refer New Mexicans to any embassy, customs office, passport center, or currency exchange office. We're one of you.

THE TRAVIS LETTER

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, this month marked the sesquicentennial of the end of the Republic of Texas.

But I rise this morning to celebrate the beginning of our Republic, not its end. One hundred sixty years ago Sat-

urday, March 2, a band of Texans gathered in Washington-on-the-Brazos and declared our Independence from Mexico. Around them raged a fierce war for that Independence. I would like the Senate to remember the many brave Texans who gave their lives in that war as I read the last letter sent from the Alamo on February 24, 1836. In reading this letter, I continue a tradition begun by my late friend, Senator John Tower. Here then is the letter of Col. William Barrett Travis, from his fort at San Antonio.

To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world:

Fellow citizens and compatriots—I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism and everything dear to the American character to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his own honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted house 80 to 90 bushels and got in the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

William B. Travis.—The Alamo, February 24, 1839.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, 4 years ago I commenced these daily reports to the Senate to make a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of the close of business the previous day.

In that report (February 27, 1992) the Federal debt stood at \$3,825,891,293,066.80, as of the close of business the previous day. The point is, the federal debt has escalated by \$1,190,735,080,843.14 since February 26, 1992.

As of the close of business yesterday, February 28, 1996, the Federal debt stood at exactly \$5,016,626,373,909.94. On a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$19,041.54 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

IMPORTED FOREIGN OIL BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending February 23, the United States imported 6,094,000 barrels of oil each day, a 6.5-percent increase over the 5,698,000 barrels imported during the same period 1 year ago.

Americans continue to rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of their needs, and there are no signs that this upward trend will abate.

According to the January 30, New York Times article "Odds of Another Oil Crisis: Saudi Stability Plays a Large Role," Saudi Arabia, which sits on 25 percent of the world's proven oil reserves—that's approximately 260 billion barrels—is politically vulnerable. There is increasing tension between the Sunni majority and the Shiite minority; tensions within the royal family have been widely reported.

Mr. President, a power struggle could easily lead to violence with a disastrous effect on the price of oil. Of course, we all pray that Saudi Arabia remains stable, politically, economically, and otherwise. This is a concern that has bothered me for years.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the aforementioned article be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks and, needless to say, I hope Senators and their staffs will heed the very explicit warning in it.

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

ODDS OF ANOTHER OIL CRISIS: SAUDI STABILITY PLAYS A LARGE ROLE

(By Agis Salpukas)

Oil Shock III. Could it happen again?

With supplies of oil plentiful and the price of gasoline, adjusted for inflation, as low as it was in the bountiful 1950's, the notion that the world will go through another spike in oil prices like those in 1973-74 and 1979 seems farfetched. And with Iraq apparently on the verge of re-entering the market, nothing is likely to change soon. Indeed, prices may fall for a while.

But some oil industry experts—worried that Saudi Arabia, the linchpin of the world oil market, may be more vulnerable politically than is generally believed—are raising the specter of an oil price surge for the first time in years.

The talk has intensified because of the possibility, remote as it may be, of a battle to succeed the ailing King Fahd between Crown Prince Abdullah, the King's half brother, and Prince Sultan, a full brother. Both men control large armies.

On Jan. 1, the 74-year-old King handed over authority to Crown Prince Abdullah, 72, for an unspecified time while he recovered from exhaustion. The Crown Prince, long designated to succeed the King, is known as an Arab nationalist who may be less open than King Fahd to American policies.

Civil war between rivals for power or between the Sunni majority and the Shiite minority cannot be ruled out, says David P. Hodel, Secretary of Energy under President Ronald Reagan. And any instability in Saudi Arabia, which sits on 25 percent of the world's proven oil reserves, or 260 billion barrels, would have wide repercussions. The tendency in the United States, he warns, has been to "go merrily on our way as if there is no potential problem to world oil supply until it is too late."

"Sadly," he added, "the consequences can be devastating."

Most political leaders and industry executives say there is nothing to worry about. Another oil crisis is always possible, they concede, but it is highly remote. The United Nations World Economic and Social Survey 1995 confidently predicts that the real price for oil will remain roughly constant for the next 20 years.

"Nobody can say it won't happen," said Alfred C. DeCrane Jr., the chairman and chief