

arising from service in World War II where he saw battle at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and was among the first U.S. servicemen to enter Hiroshima following the atomic explosion.

Before entering politics, he was a college professor, and when he returns to Oregon in January he will once again enter the classroom. The fact is, however, that for Senator HATFIELD the U.S. Capitol was also a classroom and the lessons he has taught us all, lessons in statesmanship, leadership, and friendship, will remain with us and with this Chamber for many years to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I thank my colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### DEATH OF RED CROSS RELIEF WORKERS IN BURUNDI

Mr. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, yesterday three Swiss Red Cross relief workers were killed in Burundi. I want to express my condolences to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the families of the deceased.

The ICRC staff were attacked as they returned from a project providing humanitarian relief to the civilian Burundian population. ICRC is the largest humanitarian organization in Burundi, providing water to over 200,000 people, as well as cans, pots, and blankets. The Red Cross agricultural programs keeps 150,000 people alive.

Over the years, when I have traveled in Africa, I have always been impressed with the courageous work of the ICRC. From Somalia to Rwanda, Angola to Liberia, the ICRC performs critical functions—often, as we saw yesterday, at great personal risk. In many of these crises, I simply do not know what we would do with the ICRC.

The International Red Cross has long been identified as a neutral organization which meticulously avoids taking sides in armed conflicts. For that reason, the brutal attack on the relief officials—in a vehicle clearly marked with Red Cross emblems—is particularly outrageous.

Mr. President, while much of the rest of the world—and even most of Africa—is moving forward into the 21st cen-

tury, some countries continue to deteriorate into almost medieval levels of brutality with a total disregard for human life. Over the past year, the violence in Burundi has increased dramatically as both the Burundian military and rebels based in Zaire have killed civilians at will.

While the extremists pursue a strategy of intimidation, the civilians of Burundi suffer. In recent months, thousands of innocent people have been killed. Tens of thousands have been displaced from their homes, many forced into Zaire and Tanzania.

As the level of violence grows, Burundi risks spiraling totally out of control into a cycle of genocidal brutality.

Mr. President, it is difficult to know what to do in this type of situation. Clearly, as security permits, we will support humanitarian relief operations. The United States and our European allies will continue to engage in active diplomatic efforts to stop the killing. I commend the administration, particularly National Security Adviser Tony Lake, for taking a trip to Burundi to signal high-level concern. And the United Nations is exploring a number of options to address the continued violence.

But I believe the primary responsibility—and the most effective means—to stop the killing lies with those on the African Continent.

First and foremost, the Burundians themselves must stand up and say that enough is enough. The military—the primary perpetrators of the violence—must end the brutality and perform as a neutral, professional force protecting, not killing, their citizens. The Hutu rebels based in Zaire must stop their campaign of terror. All parties must stop spreading fear and pursue their goals through dialog.

Mr. President, the neighboring states—those most affected by the insecurity in Burundi—must play an active role in reestablishing stability in the region.

Former President Nyerere of Tanzania is leading an active diplomatic initiative to bring the Burundian parties together. I commend President Nyerere for his efforts, and the United States should continue to strongly support him.

I would urge the Organization of African Unity to become more engaged in Burundi. The Secretary General of the OAU has issued a statement on Burundi. But the OAU, in order to be relevant, must stop talking about ending conflict and begin to take actions to stop conflicts.

Finally, as the primary host to refugees from Rwanda and Burundi, Zaire has a clear interest in promoting peace in Burundi. Yet, all evidence points to the continued destabilizing role of Zaire in central Africa. President Mobutu and Prime Minister Kengo must use their influence to stop the arms trafficking to the Hutu rebels based in Zaire. They must arrest the intimidators spreading fear among ref-

ugees. And they must improve security on the border.

Over the years, I have been one of the first to criticize President Mobutu for his human rights and economic policies in Zaire. He has destroyed the physical and social infrastructure of his country, potentially one of Africa's richest and most powerful. Now he is feeding instability in Burundi and Rwanda despite the interests of the Zairian people in stability. President Mobutu should understand that his role in central Africa will be noted and remembered by the United States.

Mr. President, once again I want to express my deep sadness over the brutal murder of the three International Committee of the Red Cross relief workers in Burundi. They died in a noble cause: helping innocent civilians stay alive. It is my hope that their deaths will be among the last in Burundi—and not just one more tragic event in the continued slide into uncontrollable ethnic brutality.

#### FOREIGN OIL CONSUMED BY UNITED STATES? HERE'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending May 31, the United States imported 8,700,000 barrels of oil each day, 900,000 barrels more than the 7,800,000 barrels imported during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 57 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that this upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,700,000 barrels a day.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the Federal Government is existing on borrowed money—more than \$5 trillion of it. As of the close of business yesterday, June 4, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,963,594,008.65. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,395.97 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

More than two centuries ago, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. It's time for Congress to adopt a declaration of economic responsibilities—and an amendment requiring the President and Congress to come up with a balanced Federal budget—now.

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting one nomination which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS AND COMPETITION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 152

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to you my annual report on the state of small business, and to report that small businesses are doing exceptionally well. In the year covered by this report, a record 807,000 new firms reported initial employment. Firms in industries dominated by small businesses created almost 60 percent of the nearly 3.3 million new jobs. Business failures and bankruptcies declined at some of the sharpest rates in a decade.

Small businesses have both contributed to and benefited from the recent strength of the economy. The deficit reduction plan I initiated in 1993 has cut the budget deficit in half. The economy has created 8.5 million new jobs since January 1993—almost all of them in the private sector. The combined rate of unemployment and inflation is at its lowest level in more than 25 years.

A major success story has been in the women-owned business sector. Women are creating new businesses and new jobs at double the national rate. Today, women own one-third of all businesses in the United States. Clearly, there is no stopping this fast-growing segment of the economy.

Last June I met in Washington with nearly 2,000 small business owners—participants in the national White House Conference on Small Business. They took precious time away from their businesses to tell us about their problems and their ideas for resolving them, turning over a list of 60 recommendations for Government action. Their ideas are reflected in many of the recent initiatives of my Administration.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO CAPITAL

One of the keys to a healthy small business sector is access to adequate start-up and working capital. The Small Business Lending Enhancement Act of 1995, which I signed last October, helped to increase access to capital

through the Small Business Administration's (SBA) section 7(a) loan guarantee program. Last year, the SBA provided nearly \$11 billion in long-term credit and other financial assistance to more than 67,000 small businesses, bringing SBA's total loan portfolio to \$26 billion. The number of 7(a) guaranteed loans has increased dramatically, up 52 percent from fiscal year 1994 to fiscal year 1995—and that's with a smaller budget and fewer employees at the SBA. Moreover, during that same period, the number of 7(a) guaranteed loans to women-owned businesses grew by 86 percent; loans to minority-owned businesses increased by 53 percent; and loans to businesses owned by U.S. veterans grew by 43 percent.

Other initiatives are under way. My administration has been working with banks and banking regulators to remove impediments to small business lending by financial institutions. The Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 amended the banking and securities laws to promote the growth of a secondary market for small business loans. And my administration is looking to reduce small business securities filing and disclosure burdens. In June 1995, the Securities and Exchange Commission proposed regulations that would further this small business goal.

## EASING THE TAX BURDEN

The Federal Government should reward rather than discourage entrepreneurs who take risks and create jobs. To that end, we have worked to simplify the tax code and make it more equitable for small firms.

In April 1995, I signed legislation to increase to 30 percent the share of health insurance premiums that self-employed individuals can deduct on their tax returns beginning this tax year—and we're working to increase that amount.

Small firms are less likely than their larger counterparts to be able to provide retirement plans. While 75 percent of workers in businesses with more than 1,000 employees have pension plans, only 24 percent of workers in businesses with fewer than 100 employees have them. I have proposed a new pension plan targeted to the needs of small businesses—the National Employee Savings Trust (NEST). The NEST would provide benefits similar to those of a 401(k) pension plan and would be simple to create and operate.

My Administration has endorsed other improvements that make existing pension plans safer and more beneficial for business owners and employees alike. For example, we have proposed to eliminate the "family aggregation" restrictions on pensions for family members, so that spouses or children who work in the same or related businesses can earn their own retirement benefits.

Our 1993 economic plan made 90 percent of small businesses eligible for tax relief. It established a targeted tax preference for capital gains, reduced

the record-keeping requirements for the meals and entertainment deduction, and raised the small business expensing limit for equipment by 75 percent, to \$17,500. We have proposed to increase further the value of equipment that can be directly expensed to \$25,000.

My Administration is also taking steps to ensure that tax regulations are as simple and understandable as possible. For example, administrative guidance has been published to provide tax relief to S corporations and partnerships, simplify depreciation computations, and ease inventory capitalization for small businesses.

We are pursuing tax form simplification through our Simplified Tax and Wage Reporting System (STAWRS). This joint effort among Federal and State agencies will simplify, unify, and streamline tax reporting so that taxpayers will eventually be able to file their State and Federal tax and wage returns at one location, electronically. All these efforts will bring tax reporting into the modern age while reducing the paperwork burden for small business.

## SHRINKING THE REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK BURDEN

Regulation and paperwork continue to be a key concern of America's small business owners, and I am proud of the progress my Administration has made in addressing this concern. For example, the SBA is streamlining all its regulations and converting them to plain English. An application form for the most common SBA loans used to be an inch thick and take 5 to 6 weeks to approve. We've reduced the form to one page and cut turn-around time to 3 days.

I've said it before: the era of big Government is over. We have been working hard to give the American people a Government that works better and costs less. We are eliminating 16,000 pages of unnecessary regulations and streamlining 31,000 more—shifting decision-making out of Washington and back to States and local communities. In addition, we are directing Federal agencies, where possible, to cut by half the frequency of reports the public is required to provide to the Government.

More broadly, much of our National Performance Review effort to reinvent Government has been pointed specifically at helping small business. The U.S. Business Advisor, which provides Internet access to information from all Federal agencies, and the U.S. General Store for Small Business, which offers business owners one location for dealing with the Federal Government, illustrate our commitment to reinventing how Government serves the small business community.

In March 1995, I announced a new approach to lessening the regulatory burden on small firms. Under this commonsense approach, small businesses can now avoid paying penalties for violations if they correct the problem within an appropriate period of time. And for those violations that may take