

Kucan also discussed Slovenia's current dispute with Italy over Slovene land that was owned by Italians before 1945. The Slovene parliament was to consider a law to ease restrictions on foreign ownership of property later that day. (The parliament did later approve a proposal by the Spanish presidency of the European Union to resolve the dispute. The Italians foreign ministry has responded positively, but the final outcome of the issue, which rests in the Italian parliament, remains uncertain.)

With State Secretary Golob of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the delegation discussed the Kosovo issue. Golob shared the view of many others—that war in Kosovo would destabilize the entire region and that the foreign presence in the area—particularly that of the United States—is “extremely important.” He described the situation in the former Yugoslavia as “complicated, but not hopeless,” and argued that the price the international community is paying for the IFOR deployment is small compared to the costs that would be associated with failure in Bosnia and a spread of the war.

Prime Minister Drnovsek also argued the legitimacy and importance of the U.S. role in Bosnia. He acknowledged the challenges the involvement poses for the United States in the short term, but expressed its long-term value in terms of the cost-effectiveness of prevention as well as the benefit of helping small democracies develop in Central Europe and the Balkans. He said, “You who espouse democracy, and have enjoyed it for 200 years, have the opportunity to see people who have lived for generations under tyranny, dictatorship, and communism now breathe freely under democracy. We, the small struggling republics, could be like you.”

CROATIA

In addition to a briefing from the Ambassador and other U.S. Embassy officials in Zagreb, the delegation met with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to discuss progress related to implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord, the prospects for long-term peace in the region, and the investigation of the crash of Secretary Brown's plane in Dubrovnik.

The delegation thanked President Tudjman for Croatia's assistance in the aftermath of the plane crash and expressed the delegation's and the United States' interest in continuing the mission that Secretary Brown started. The senators pressed Tudjman on the importance to U.S.-Croatian relations of continued progress toward democratization and privatization. The delegation also indicated that the United States would be monitoring the following issues over the next 6 to 18 months: continued support for the Muslim-Croat Federation, including respect for Bosnia's borders and protection of human rights within those borders, and for peaceful resolutions of regional disputes; fair treatment and resettlement of Serbs who lived in Croatia before the war; continued progress in Eastern Slavonia; and cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal. The delegation stated that the United States is looking to Croatia for leadership toward a lasting peace in the region.

Tudjman reported that good progress is being made in Eastern Slavonia, and supported the idea of Serb family reunification, but said that it “would not be realistic” to expect the return of all Serbs from that region. He argued that Bosnian Croats have been more cooperative than Bosnian Muslims with respect to implementation of the Dayton agreement and pointed to recent problems in Mostar to support that claim. Still, Tudjman called himself “an optimist,”

saying that optimism is based on peace being in Croatia's strategic interest and the Bosnians having no other option. He summarily dismissed rumors of his willingness to enter into an agreement with Serbian President Milosevic to divide Bosnia.

GOOD SAMARITAN CENTER'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to congratulate the staff of the Good Samaritan Center as they celebrate 50 years of service to the Tyndall community. The center has provided quality care to senior citizens in the Tyndall area, and its management and staff are to be commended for their hard work and dedication.

During my travels throughout South Dakota, I am continually reminded of the importance of health care institutions in our rural communities. They provide important services to local residents and help preserve our tight-knit communities.

The Good Samaritan Center in Tyndall is one of those institutions, and it gives me great pride to be able to point to such an exemplary South Dakota facility. For half a century, the center has been an integral part of the Tyndall community, serving the elderly with respect and compassion. Most importantly, the Good Samaritan Center ensures that its residents can continue to live close to their friends and loved ones, and in the towns in which many of them have spent their entire lives. The center can be very proud of its role in the Tyndall community.

Once again, I applaud the management and staff of the Good Samaritan Center on this important milestone. I know their next 50 years will be just as successful and rewarding.

TRIBUTE TO MINISTER GABRIEL LEWIS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the United States and the Republic of Panama enjoy a long and strong relationship between our two nations, one that stretches back to the 1904 founding of Panama. Since that time, these two great American nations have worked together to build partnerships for peace and prosperity that have not only greatly benefited our respective countries, but all the states of the American continents. During these 92 years, Panamanian and American officials and citizens have built countless friendships, and I rise today to share with my colleagues the unfortunate news that a man most of us know and like very much, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama Gabriel Lewis, is resigning his position due to illness.

Minister Lewis' contributions to his nation are well known and well respected. He has served Panama faithfully and selflessly during his career, and through his service, he has worked to make his nation a better and stronger place for its citizens. Perhaps Min-

ister Lewis' greatest legacy and contribution to his countrymen, though, is the leading role he took in opposing the dictatorial and criminal regime of the former Panamanian strongman, Manuel Noriega.

Bringing Noriega to justice and holding him accountable for his illegal and immoral behavior took thousands of individuals to commit acts of great courage. It took courage for Panamanian citizens to take to the streets and protest the regime of Noriega and to face his riot police and organized thugs dubiously titled “Dignity Battalions”; and, it took courage for the young soldiers of the 82d Airborne and the 7th Infantry Divisions to engage in combat with the well trained and equipped Panamanian Defense Force. It took great courage for Minister Lewis to openly defy and condemn the government of his nation, and to take Noriega and his puppet advisers to task for attempting to quash democracy and ignore the basic civil rights of their citizens. Minister Lewis' leadership in the international community during that time of crisis was just as critical to the successful outcome of Operation Just Cause, and the arrest and conviction of Noriega as were the contributions made by the people of Panama or the military personnel of the United States.

Mr. President, though I am sure that those who know Minister Lewis are sorry to see him leave his post as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama, I am pleased to note that our friend is not leaving public service. Recognizing an individual of unusual characteristics and qualities, the President of Panama has appointed Gabriel Lewis to be his senior counsel, with cabinet rank. I am confident that Minister Lewis will continue to make many valuable contributions to the people and nation of Panama through this new position, and that he will also continue to work to maintain and further strengthen the friendship between our nations, as well as to further the march of democracy throughout Latin America. I wish him success in his work as senior counsel, and for a speedy and complete recovery to his full health.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 17, the Federal debt stood at \$5,137,826,225,531.03, which amounts to \$19,306.97 per man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I am sure that we all have high standards for accuracy on this floor, and therefore I wish to comment on certain statements which have been made in recent days.

On June 7, the junior Senator from Oklahoma mistakenly represented that

the Senate had voted on a version of the balanced budget amendment in the 103d Congress that was "identically the same" as the version voted on in the 104th Congress. He then mistakenly inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD copies of two resolutions when he represented to be "the two resolutions that we voted on * * *."

In fact, he inserted into the RECORD copies of the resolutions as introduced, but not as amended and actually voted on by the Senate. The two resolutions which were ultimately voted on contained language differences concerning judicial review.

The distinguished Senator from North Dakota and I had a colloquy with the Senator from Oklahoma. As we pointed out then, the language differences were not the primary reasons for our votes in opposition to the balanced budget amendment in the 104th Congress. Our opposition stemmed mainly from the dramatic change in the interpretation of section 6 of the proposal concerning implementing language—regarding the intention to count the annual surplus in the Social Security trust fund. However, since the Senator from Oklahoma was attempting to portray the issue in a simple black-and-white fashion—as two votes on identical proposals—we sought to clarify for the RECORD that the representations he made were flat out wrong.

Last Friday, the junior Senator from Oklahoma again took the floor to discuss this matter. He stated that, after all, the two resolutions really were "exactly the same thing" since both added language dealing with the issue of judicial review. Therefore, even though the language was different, certain Senators "turned right around and actively opposed the same exact language in a balanced budget amendment" that they had earlier supported in 1994.

The junior Senator from Oklahoma then quoted the distinguished Senator from Georgia, Senator NUNN, who authored a 1995 amendment on judicial review. What the Senator from Georgia actually said on February 28, 1995 was that his amendment on judicial review was "similar to the Danforth amendment we agreed to last year and the Johnston amendment, which was defeated last week" by a vote of 47 to 52.

I ask unanimous consent that the Danforth amendment from 1994 and the Johnston and Nunn amendments from 1995, each of which amends section 6 of the balanced budget amendment, be printed in the RECORD at this point.

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

DANFORTH AMENDMENT

The power of any court to order relief pursuant to any case or controversy arising under this Article shall not extend to ordering any remedies other than a declaratory judgment or such remedies as are specifically authorized in implementing legislation pursuant to this section.

JOHNSTON AMENDMENT

The judicial power of the United States shall not extend to any case or controversy arising under this article except for section 2 hereof, or as may be specifically authorized in implementing legislation pursuant to this section.

NUNN AMENDMENT

The judicial power of the United States shall not extend to any case or controversy arising under this article except as may be specifically authorized by legislation adopted pursuant to this section.

Mr. FORD. As the Senator from Georgia noted, all three amendments are similar. The Senator from Oklahoma says the Danforth and Nunn amendments are "exactly the same thing." Yet last year he voted against the Johnston amendment, which also dealt with judicial review. Perhaps the next time we are discussing identical proposals on the balanced budget amendment, the junior Senator from Oklahoma can inform all of us concerning what was so different about the Johnston amendment on judicial review to justify his different positions. I would think he would consider it to be the same exact language. The junior Senator from Oklahoma continues to try to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

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 sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The following resolution was read and referred as indicated:

S. Res. 263. Resolution relating to church burning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE SUBMITTED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to the order of the Senate of June 13, 1996, the following report was submitted on June 17, 1996, during the adjournment of the Senate:

By Mr. D'AMATO, from the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters:

Special Report entitled "The Final Report" (Rept. No. 104-280).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment:

H.R. 3448. A bill to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-281).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

John W. Hechinger, Sr., of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the National Security Education Board for a term of 4 years.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BYRD:

S. 1881. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to make available for obligation such sums as are necessary to pay the Federal share of completion of construction of the Appalachian development highway system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1882. A bill to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to include medical foods as a specific item for which coverage may be provided under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. COHEN):

S. 1883. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to conform to State law the vehicle weight limitations on certain portions of the Interstate System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 1884. A bill to provide a penalty of not less than 10 years imprisonment without release for damage by arson to houses of worship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. PELL, Mr. SIMON, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Res. 265. A resolution relating to church burnings; considered and agreed to.