

important legislation. I would ask everyone to lay their political labels aside and move ahead with one thing in mind: the need to produce a good bill that helps Americans who need our help.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, 1996 is fast emerging as one of the most critical years of the post-cold-war period. Earlier this year, Taiwan concluded Presidential elections, taking a firm step toward a pro-democratic course under China's watchful eye. India and Israel recently held elections that resulted in dramatic shifts of power in both countries. Russia just concluded the first round of balloting in its Presidential elections, and a second round is scheduled shortly in which Russians will face a stark choice between the West-leaning Yeltsin and the former communist Zyuganov. Later this year, Bosnia is scheduled to hold elections as well, the outcome of which may well determine whether that war-torn, fragmented country will continue to exist.

As President Clinton said recently, "we live in a moment of hope." The demise of the cold war, the emergence of democratic trends across the globe, advances in telecommunications and the exchange of information—all of these are helping to create a new international environment, which will force a realignment in the fundamental relationship between States, and augurs for a more stable and cooperative world.

As we complete what appears to be a transition period into an era of unprecedented opportunity, the world will look to the United States—as the only true remaining superpower—for guidance and moral authority. Any President of the United States, of course, immediately plays an epic role on the world's stage. But President Clinton seems to be paying a more critical role than most.

During the past 4 years, the Clinton administration has worked assiduously to exert influence over and capitalize on the momentous changes that have occurred. President Clinton's solid record of achievement, I would argue, demonstrates beyond all doubt that he has the requisite vision and courage to steer the ship of state into the next century. If you will permit me, I will give a brief tour of the international horizon to underscore my point.

In Europe and the former Soviet Union, the Clinton administration has achieved some of its greatest foreign policy successes. Clinton's active engagement in Bosnia—a mine field where Presidents, policymakers, and pundits once feared to tread—has brought a halt to the bloodshed and killing in one of Europe's most destructive and intractable conflicts. The presence of U.S. troops—whom early critics predicted would be drawn into a fighting war—has proven to be the key

ingredient in setting the stage for the return of stability. In the next several months, the administration looks to be equally engaged in ensuring that the proper circumstances arise for free and fair elections to take place, which would go a long way toward paving the way for a U.S. withdrawal and bringing the issue to a close.

Russia follows close on Bosnia's heels as a major foreign policy success. The recent conclusion of the first round of the Presidential elections is a remarkable development in and of itself. For the first time in Russia's history, a Russian leader has endeavored to seek reelection, further strengthening prospects for the emergence of a Russian democratic culture. And the Clinton administration's policy of engaging—without actually endorsing—Yeltsin appears now to have been brilliantly conceived and well implemented.

Turning to Asia, one simply cannot neglect China. China is the most important country in the region, and the United States-China bilateral relationship is one of the most critical in the world. Our relations with China are so complex and multifaceted that it is difficult to do them justice in so brief a discussion. I would only say that in such an intricate relationship, there are bound to be successes as well as failures. I, for one, credit the Clinton administration for pursuing a better trade relationship with China, which can promote cooperation, and ultimately progress, in other areas. I think the agreements on trade the administration has achieved so far constitute a good foundation, but the key challenge from here is to ensure that agreements are enforced and commitments honored in order for broader progress to come.

Elsewhere in Asia, the administration's actions with regard to North Korea deserve special mention and commendation. It is indeed no small matter that the Clinton administration has, in essence, prevented one of the world's most dangerous rogue states from going nuclear. In doing so, the administration has set a strong precedent and learned invaluable lessons that it can apply to other aspiring nuclear powers.

In the Middle East, the Clinton administration has made a superb effort to stabilize the region and broaden international acceptance of Israel. Israel's peace agreements with Jordan and the Palestinians represent achievements that are, in my view, irreversible. I am sure that the election of a new government in Israel will prompt some changes in the calculus for a comprehensive peace, which ultimately should include Lebanon, Syria, and the Persian Gulf States. But I would argue that whatever changes occur are more likely to have an impact on the timing, rather than the inevitability, of normal relations between Israel and the Arab States.

In the Western Hemisphere, the Clinton administration can say with pride that democratically elected govern-

ments exist in every country of the region save one. And the one exception, Cuba, has become the target of particularly vigorous sanctions effort, which the administration hopes will hasten the fall of the Castro regime and open the way for the transition to democracy. Although I must confess to having opposed the tightening of sanctions, I cannot argue with the administration's intent.

The administration's effort to restore Haitian President Aristide to power represents, of course, a milestone in the hemisphere's transition to democracy. In Haiti, much as in Bosnia, this administration inherited a seemingly insoluble problem, to which it brought energy, courage, creativity, and ultimately, a resolve to use justifiable force, and thereby achieved its goal.

Finally, Mr. President, I would say a word about Africa, where United States interests have not been so easily defined as they have elsewhere, and which consequently has suffered occasionally from a lack of attention from Washington. Not so with the Clinton administration, which has made a real effort to promote stability, encourage the emergence of democratic trends, and disburse U.S. assistance effectively to promote sustainable development. The obvious high point is, of course, the peaceful transfer of power and the domestic election of President Mandela in South Africa. But there are equally important—if lesser known—success stories such as Botswana, which enjoys a freely elected government and recently graduated altogether from United States assistance.

To sum up, each of the highlights that I have touched upon represent significant achievements in their own right. In and of themselves, they command respect and recognition of a job well done by the Clinton administration in the foreign policy area. Collectively, they provide overwhelming evidence that the administration is up to the challenge of leading the United States into the next millennium, which holds promise for tremendous opportunity for our country and its citizens.

PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wish today to emphasize the hope all Texans and all Americans have for continued progress in the Middle East peace talks as heads of state of Arab countries begin a summit meeting in Cairo, Egypt.

These leaders are meeting the same week that Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu presented his new cabinet to the Israeli Knesset for approval. Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu has expressed his own support for peace by listing as a guideline of his new Government that "Israel will work to broaden the circle of peace with all of its neighbors."

Mr. President, the United States must continue to be an important influence for peace in the Middle East

and throughout the world. President Clinton himself recently stated that he hopes the Arab leaders who attend this summit will "give Mr. Netanyahu an opportunity to constitute his government and set a policy and not presume that we can't pursue peace."

Under these circumstances, Mr. President, I know that it is the hope of my colleagues here, and people all across America that the governments attending the summit in Cairo, and governments throughout the Middle East, reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

I believe, too, that it will be particularly important that these leaders express their willingness to work with the democratically elected government of Israel to pursue a meaningful peace.

Mr. President, through great courage on all sides, we've made significant strides toward peace. We hope and pray that we continue down that path.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 20, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,108,536,115,006.17.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,268.73 as his or her share of that debt.

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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:13 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3662. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second time by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3662. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-611. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Toledo, Ohio, relative to the minimum wage; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

POM-612. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Delaware; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 38

"Whereas improving patient access to quality health care is a paramount national goal; and

"Whereas the key to improved health care, especially for persons with serious unmet medical needs, is the rapid approval of safe and effective new drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and

"Whereas minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual approval of a new drug, biological product, or medical device derived from research conducted by innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies could improve the lives of millions of Americans; and

"Whereas current limitations on the dissemination of information about pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to physicians, other health care professionals, and patients, and unfairly limit the right of free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

"Whereas the current rules and practices governing the review of new drugs, biological products, and medical devices by the United States Food and Drug Administration can delay approvals and are unnecessarily expensive; Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the House of Representatives of the 138th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the Senate concurring therein, That the State Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to address this important issue by enacting comprehensive legislation to facilitate the rapid review and approval of innovative new drugs, biological products, and medical devices, without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives."

POM-613. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 259

"Whereas, household energy costs for heating, cooling, electricity, and other needs account for a sizable portion of living expenses for low-income families; and

"Whereas, in 1980, to assist low-income families with energy needs, Congress established the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as part of the Crude Oil Windfall Profit Tax Act of 1980; and

"Whereas, LIHEAP provides block grants to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Indian Tribal organizations to assist eligible households in meeting the costs of home energy; and

"Whereas, under the program, states make payments directly to eligible households or to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households, and payments may be provided in cash, fuel, prepaid utility bills, or as vouchers, stamps, or coupons that may be used in exchange for energy supplies; and

"Whereas, in addition to providing assistance for heating and cooling needs, eligible

LIHEAP households may also receive funds for weather-related and supply shortage emergencies; and

"Whereas, LIHEAP recipients are among the poorest households in America, with nearly three-fifths having an annual income of less than \$6,000; and

"Whereas, while critical, LIHEAP benefits only cover about 30 percent of the energy costs of LIHEAP recipients; and

"Whereas, families whose utilities are disconnected because they cannot pay their bills face such risks as food spoilage, lack of sanitation, or eviction, that can lead to hopelessness; Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Eighteenth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1996, the Senate concurring, That Congress is urged to continue the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; and be it further

"Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and Hawaii's Congressional Delegation."

POM-614. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Iowa; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 109

"Whereas, improving patient access to quality health care is a paramount national goal; and

"Whereas, the key to improved health care in many cases and especially for individuals with serious unmet medical needs, is the rapid development and approval of safe and effective drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and

"Whereas, minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual approval of a new drug, biological product, or medical device derived from research conducted by innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies could improve the lives of millions of individuals; and

"Whereas, current limitations on the dissemination of information about pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to health care professionals and patients, and may be viewed as interfering with the right of free speech guaranteed by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

"Whereas, the current regulations and practices governing the review of new drugs, biological products, and medical devices by the United States Food and Drug Administration may delay approval and are unnecessarily expensive; Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, That the Iowa General Assembly respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to address this important issue by enacting comprehensive legislation to facilitate the rapid review and approval of innovative drugs, biological products, and medical devices, without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness; and be it further

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives."

POM-615. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.