

For the last 135 years, Press & Dakotan has served the public interest by providing reliable local news to the residents of southeastern South Dakota. When the Press & Dakotan was founded in the Missouri River community of Yankton in 1861, the Dakota Territory was barely organized. Moving west, many early pioneers settled near the River and the Press & Dakotan, then known as the Weekly Dakotian, was there to serve them.

Over the years, the Press & Dakotan has recorded great national events from the end of the Civil War to the launch of the Space Shuttle. It has kept its readers informed with firsthand accounts of the Indian wars of the 1870's, the Depression of the 1930's, and the astounding economic growth experienced by Yankton throughout the 1990's. Fifteen other newspapers have come and gone in Yankton since 1861, but the Press & Dakotan has always been present to witness and record South Dakota's history. By persevering, it has etched out a tiny piece of history for itself.

South Dakotans depend on their hometown newspapers to provide updated local information. The residents of Yankton are no exception. The Press & Dakotan has a proven track record as a constant and reliable source for local information and it has served its community well. It has exhibited a remarkable ability to change with the times and is poised for new growth and development in the 21st century.

Once again, I applaud the Press & Dakotan for the hard work and commitment it took to reach this important milestone. I know the next 135 years will be just as successful.

TRIBUTE TO NORTH DAKOTA AIR FORCE PERSONNEL INJURED IN BOMBING IN DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I rise today to express my deep condolences to the families of the 19 Americans who the Air Force reports were killed in Tuesday's blast in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. I know that the thoughts and prayers of all Senators are also with the more than 300 people who were injured and their families, but I would like to make my colleagues aware that 3 of those who were wounded serve in my State, North Dakota.

Madam President, approximately 60 Air Force personnel from air bases in Minot and Grand Forks in my home State are currently in the Persian Gulf theater. Many of them have been serving on a temporary basis in Dhahran with the 4404th Composite Wing, which is helping to enforce the no fly zone over Iraq. In light of reports that reverberations from the blast were felt nearly a hundred miles away in Bahrain, we must be thankful that more people were not killed, and that the three individuals from Grand Forks AFB who were hurt suffered only very minor injuries. It is my understanding

that they have had an opportunity to speak with their families, and have been given necessary medical care.

Although the names of the injured are being withheld for the time being, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the fine work that these injured servicemembers and all North Dakota personnel in the Gulf have done for our country. Duty in the Persian Gulf is, by all accounts, an extremely challenging assignment. The desert environment is unyielding, and the culture is vastly different from what servicemembers are used to in the United States. Tuesday's blast also reminds us of the area's political instability, and the fact that the gulf is one of the few places in the post-cold war world where American forces daily face the real threat of attack.

In the face of these challenges, personnel from the Grand Forks and Minot bases have performed extremely well. They have been a tribute to their fine installations, our State, the U.S. Air Force, and our country. I am proud of every member of the Air Force assigned to North Dakota, and offer my special thanks to the men and women from Minot and Grand Forks who are in the gulf today. It is because of your vigilance and hard work that all of us back home can sleep well at night.

President Clinton and Saudi authorities have vowed that those responsible for this shameful attack will be brought to justice, and I echo their sentiments that this cowardly act will not sway our resolve in the gulf. I have no doubt that North Dakota's personnel in the region will play an outstanding role in dealing with the aftermath of the blast, and on behalf of my colleagues in the Senate, wish to extend my sincere wishes for a quick recovery to the 3 servicemembers from Grand Forks AFB who were injured.

A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED IN SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, I rise today to condemn the June 25 cowardly terrorist attack which claimed the lives of 19 United States Air Force members at the Khobar Barracks near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The explosion which killed these men and injured 106 others was a heinous crime for which those responsible must be held accountable. The message must be sent that the United States will not tolerate conduct of this nature and our commitment to preventing future terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere must be stronger than ever before.

Today, we honor the service and sacrifice of those who were killed or injured in this attack. We mourn the loss of some of our Nation's finest service members and pray that God will comfort those closest to them in time of grief. We are also thankful for those who continue to serve in a land far from their own in the defense of the

United States and its allies and we commit ourselves to taking whatever action is necessary to ensure their continued safety.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 26, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,118,103,732,700.15.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,301.59 as his or her share of that debt.

LEONARD PELTIER

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of events which are taking place in the Capitol today concerning the cause of a native American, Mr. Leonard Peltier.

For over 20 years, Mr. Peltier has been imprisoned for a crime that the Government now appears to be admitting Mr. Peltier may not have committed.

I first became interested in this case when I viewed a documentary on one of the network television news programs in which, much to my surprise, the prosecuting attorney evinced some pride in the fact that at trial, the defense did not request and the prosecution did not produce certain exculpatory ballistics evidence which may have well effected a different outcome in the jury's verdict.

Although it has been many years since I served as a prosecutor, at that time, a defendant was entitled to the production of all of the evidence that might be used against him by the prosecution, and to my knowledge the law has not changed in that regard.

Thereafter, I learned that Mr. Peltier had been extradited from Canada on the basis of affidavits of eyewitnesses who later admitted that their testimony was not truthful. Although the Government apparently knew of the false nature of these affidavits, they were nonetheless presented to the Government of Canada as the basis for extradition.

Over the ensuing years, it has been my belief that if these facts of apparent misconduct on the part of the government could be disproved, it would serve the interest of justice to have a full review of all of the actions and proceedings leading up to and resulting in Mr. Peltier's incarceration.

Accordingly, I called upon President Bush to initiate such a review, and it is my understanding that a hearing examiner of the U.S. Parole Commission undertook such a review.

Thereafter, in December 1995, I am told that a hearing was held in which the prosecuting attorney in the Peltier case acknowledged that the Government could not be certain who was responsible for the murder of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on June 26, 1975, and that rather than having evidence which

would support the theory that Mr. Peltier fired at the agents at close range, the most the Government could say was that Mr. Peltier may have been firing shots at long range in the direction from which other gunfire was emanating and that in so doing, he may have aided and abetted those who were in fact responsible for the murders.

Thus I was surprised to learn the Parole Commission ultimately concluded that "the government has not changed its position that circumstantial evidence presented at your trial established your complicity in the execution of the agents."

Even more surprising, given that Mr. Peltier has consistently maintained his innocence of the crime with which he was charged, is the Parole Commission's finding that "[Mr. Peltier] has not given a factually specific account of your actions at the time of the offenses that is consistent with the jury's verdict of guilt, considering either theory of your participation in the crimes outlined by the government at trial."

Madam President, in the 8 years that I served as chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, the committee received literally thousands of letters each week from citizens of almost every country on this globe, calling upon the United States to examine the facts and circumstances surrounding Mr. Peltier's conviction and subsequent incarceration, and urging clemency.

International attention continues to be focused on what is seen by many as a matter of human rights.

Madam President, it is my hope that one day soon, a nation which prides itself on being an open society will find it appropriate to reexamine Mr. Peltier's case in all of its aspects. If there is nothing to hide, as honorable men and women, we can do no less.

If we find that we have been holding the wrong man accountable for these heinous crimes, let us renew our efforts to find the real culprits, and let an innocent man live out the remaining years of his life as a free man.

WELFARE AND MEDICAID REFORM

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, it has been stated countless times that the American people want three things: real welfare reform, a balanced budget, and compromise, if necessary to get the job done. Yesterday, the Finance Committee approved S. 1795, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996. This legislation reflects the will of the American people on all three of these issues.

Let me first address bipartisanship and compromise. This past February, the Nation's Governors gathered in Washington and approved two resolutions dealing with welfare reform and Medicaid. Their efforts were lauded across the country, including by President Clinton.

For more than 3 years, President Clinton has been saying that, "what keeps people on welfare is the cost of

health care and child care for their kids."

Under S. 1795, we are providing more child care funding than under current law and more mandatory child care funding than President Clinton has proposed. This legislation will help families make that all important transition into the work force.

When the Democratic and Republican Governors were working together on welfare and Medicaid reform, he did not tell the Governors to abandon their efforts because he would not sign Medicaid reform. In fact, he encouraged them. On the eve of the NGA proposal, the President encouraged the bipartisan Governors' group to "try to reach agreement on a number of issues that are important to your people and to us here in Washington, including Medicaid and welfare * * *".

In order to protect the President from his own words, many Democrats are now demanding that welfare be separated from Medicaid. The Governors understand there is no real welfare reform without Medicaid reform.

The compromise forged last February was supported by the most liberal Governor and the most conservative Governor and everyone in between. No one liked everything, but there was something for everyone in these resolutions. That is the essence of bipartisanship.

On May 22, I introduced S. 1795, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996. An identical bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by Chairman ARCHER and Chairman BLILEY.

My colleagues in the House and I made every effort to meet the goals adopted by the Democratic and Republican Governors.

Last week, members of the Finance Committee submitted 163 amendments to S. 1795. There were 53 Republican amendments and 110 Democrat amendments. Based on the Finance Committee work, S. 1795, as amended, includes more than 50 Democratic amendments.

Nearly half of the Democratic amendments offered are included in this legislation.

Turning to the subject of welfare reform itself, it is critical to not lose sight of the overall goal of this legislation. That goal is to replace a system which has failed the very people it was intended to serve. The Governors understand that there is no real welfare reform without also restructuring Medicaid. Democratic and Republican Governors alike understand that Medicaid reform is a critical component of moving families from welfare to work.

More than 3 years ago, President Clinton told the Nation's Governors that,

* * * many people stay on welfare not because of the checks * * * they do it solely because they do not want to put their children at risk of losing health care or because they do not have the money to pay for child care * * *.

This is precisely the purpose of S. 1795.

Madam President, there is plenty of talk coming from the other side of the

aisle that the Governors and State legislatures cannot wait to abandon the children in their State. That is nonsense. If a family stays on welfare, that family will bet both a welfare check and Medicaid. Under this reform proposal, the States have greater incentives to expand Medicaid coverage and help prevent families from being forced onto the welfare rolls in the first place. Reform is a critical component of getting those now on welfare off of cash assistance.

The Governors also understand that under current law, Medicaid is an all or nothing proposition. The current system contains built-in incentives for families to impoverish themselves in order to qualify for Medicaid.

The Governors also understand that under today's all or nothing scheme, a lot of low-income working families get nothing. As if to add insult to injury, many low-income families are paying for the benefits a welfare family is getting while their own children go without coverage.

Medicaid is an important program for our elderly citizens in terms of long-term care coverage. But the current system is far from perfect in serving our senior citizens. The current system forces elderly citizens into poverty even before any benefits can be provided.

Our senior citizens often do not receive the most appropriate services because the current system, run under rules dictated by the Federal Government, is not flexible enough. What is good for the bureaucracy is not necessarily good for the individual. S. 1795 will give the States greater flexibility to redesign benefits so that our senior citizens can be better served.

The Clinton administration is scaring the elderly and hiding behind children. The very idea that the current system must remain in place in order to protect our vulnerable citizens from their Governors and State legislators is not only insulting. It is wrong. More than half of the money being spent on Medicaid is there solely because the States have chosen to provide optional benefits and extend optional coverage to a greater number of people.

The administration is trying to scare people with a convoluted argument that S. 1795 lacks a Federal guarantee. This argument is completely hollow. As Secretary Shalala acknowledged to the Finance Committee earlier this month, the States could take nearly \$70 billion today out of the current Medicaid system without needing her approval.

S. 1795 did not create the linkage between welfare and Medicaid. That was done more than 30 years ago when Medicaid was created.

This legislation meets the four primary goals of the NGA Medicaid resolution:

First, the basic health care needs of the Nation's most vulnerable populations must be guaranteed.