

reach some conclusions about the right and wrong response to the bombing.

I say to my colleagues, in order to understand the next steps we should be taking as a nation, you must try to put yourself in the mind of the terrorists to determine what they want. Based on all of the rhetoric and the history of terrorism in this region, there are, in my view, at least three things the terrorists want to have happen as a result of their attacks. First, they want to divide Saudi Arabia from the United States. Second, they want to force the United States out of Saudi Arabia. Third, they want to make it more difficult for the United States to deploy its forces overseas.

If these are in fact the goals of the terrorists, and I believe they are, some reactions in Congress and the media are playing right into the terrorists' hands. I have heard implications that cast doubt on the competence of the military chain of command to protect the troops. I have heard doubt cast on the sincerity and willingness of an important ally to cooperate with the United States. I have heard speculation about the stability of the government of that important ally. If I were the terrorist, I'd be pleased at these reactions and be confident that one more spectacular attack might just be good enough to finish the job and drive the Americans out of the region.

I say to my colleagues, these are not the appropriate responses when we are at war. And believe me, whoever they may be, the terrorists have declared war on the United States. And I think we can all agree, when we are at war, the appropriate response is not to do what your enemy wants.

The appropriate response is to support our military and its commanders. The appropriate response is to praise the airmen at Al Khobar Towers for the dedication and alertness which prevented greater casualties in the attack. The appropriate response is to pile on all of the intelligence and war-fighting resources we can marshal so as to put the perpetrators out of business and to punish their state sponsor, if we find one. The appropriate response is to be sure our troops enjoy the maximum protection consistent with the mission. The appropriate response is to continue with our vital mission in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. President, we should be making it clear, right now, the United States is angry. But we are not angry because a barrier was too close to a building. We should be making it very clear we are angry because someone attacked us. That someone should understand they are the focus of our anger, not our military commanders. We should be confirming our commitment the United States will not leave Saudi Arabia. We should make sure our enemy understands they will be punished and their organization will be destroyed. And this will happen to them no matter how far we have to go or how long it takes.

We Americans proved during Desert Storm that we will support a 72-hour

war. We now need to prove we will support a war that lasts 72 weeks—or however long it takes to defeat this enemy.

The nervousness over vulnerabilities, the second-guessing of the chain of command, the search for an exit strategy should be going on in the terrorists' lair—not in the United States. Let's focus the anger where it belongs.

FLAWED ELECTIONS IN NIGER

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, early this week, the people of the Republic of Niger were denied their right to choose their own leadership and control their destiny. I want to express my deep disappointment in the Nigerian elections and in the military regime that chose to retain power through fraud and intimidation rather than honor its word to hold free and fair elections.

In January, immediately after Gen. Ibrahim Barre Mainassara deposed Niger's democratically elected president in a military coup, he pledged to return the country to democracy as soon as possible. At that time, the United States rejected the use of military solutions for political problems by suspending bilateral development and military assistance, as well as support for Niger in multilateral financial institutions. We urged Barre to keep his word and encouraged the military government to reestablish democracy quickly and transparently.

Balloting started on Sunday, despite the fact that the Independent Electoral Commission had twice requested a postponement in order to ensure that accurate voter lists and voter cares were in place. General Barre rejected these requests and, instead, extended the voting through Monday. On this second day of balloting, the general deployed security forces to the homes of his opponents, shut down private radio stations—including the Voice of America affiliate—and dissolved the Independent Electoral Commission.

Barre appointed a new commission which declared him the winner only hours later. Quickly after that declaration all demonstrations and public assemblies were banned. Political leaders are under house arrest, and political activists are being detained.

Mr. President, I join with the administration and other members of the international community in condemning these recent events. The age of accepting military coups and authoritarian regimes in Africa is over. France, with its unique influence in Niger, can have an especially powerful voice in articulating this message. For this reason, it is particularly disturbing that the bilateral French delegation on the ground claimed that, by Nigerian standards, this weekend's election was a sound one.

In this era of change and growth throughout much of the African Continent, Niger now stands out as a country moving against the tide of openness and progress. Development and eco-

nomie growth cannot be achieved in a climate of instability, and human potential cannot be realized in an atmosphere of fear. If the people of Niger are to find their much-deserved place among the emerging markets and developing nations of Africa, Niger must return to democracy.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET SUPPORTS STUDENT AID

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today I would like to express my continued support for Federal student financial aid programs. I relied on student loans to fund my college education at the University of South Dakota, so I understand the importance of these loans for students and families. Low income levels should not deny young people the opportunity to achieve their dream of a college education. Programs such as Stafford loans, Pell Grants, and work study programs enable young people to fulfill that dream and pursue their ultimate dreams of personal and professional success.

One of the great challenges for American families is the rising cost of a college education. For the past two decades, tuition costs have risen twice as fast as inflation. Financial aid has not kept pace with these soaring price increases. The result? More and more students and their families are struggling to pay for college today. In my home State of South Dakota, 83 percent of students attending public colleges receive some type of Federal financial aid. As the number of students receiving loans continues to grow, the overall student aid debt accumulates along with it. Even more of a concern, the rising cost of tuition increases the size of the debt students pay off after college. South Dakota students now graduate with an average debt of more than \$10,000. This means that college graduates are forced to divert a higher share of their earnings in order to pay off their student debts.

Students struggle to find ways to pay off these huge debts. Increasingly, they work while attending school. This trend tends to deflate the student's educational experience.

I am pleased the Republican budget that passed Congress earlier this year would respond to these trends. The budget includes responsible, cost-efficient reforms to student financial aid programs. These programs can be improved without harming the actual aid levels that students depend on. Reform can be achieved by eliminating small, specialized scholarship programs and Federal bureaucracy.

Unfortunately, liberal interests have tried to use the issue of student financial aid to their benefit. They have used false propaganda to scare young people and their parents. I urge Americans to look at the facts, not the falsehoods. The Republican plan for student aid would increase the amount of aid available to students, while downsizing inefficient Federal bureaucracy.

The Republican budget for student financial aid would do three things. First, it would increase the maximum Pell Grant level to \$2,470—the highest level ever. Second, it would maintain current funding levels for the Federal Work-Study Program and the supplemental education opportunity grants. Lastly, it would maintain the in-school interest subsidy and postgraduation grace period for all students. I am proud we were able to maintain this funding during these tough budget times. Student aid is a priority in this Congress.

We could provide more for student aid if we abolished the Clinton administration's wasteful, expensive direct lending program. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that taxpayers would save more than \$1.5 billion over 7 years if the direct lending program were abolished.

Faceless bureaucrats in Washington are not able to provide students and families in South Dakota with the same personal service offered by hometown banks and credit unions. This is just common sense. The people of South Dakota greatly prefer one-on-one consultation with a small bank or credit union in their hometown, not the endless maze of redtape that accompanies the direct-lending program. This is another example of how the Clinton administration believes big government is the answer and should be involved in our daily lives.

Frankly the single best way to show our support for student financial aid programs and most importantly, for our children, is to balance the budget and reduce the massive national debt. These issues are entwined. Young people today stand to inherit the responsibility of the national debt, which now totals \$5 trillion. Interest payments on the debt alone are a considerable burden—more than \$200 billion each year and rising. As the interest grows, it diverts Federal resources from programs like student financial aid. A balanced budget would protect worthwhile Government programs, reduce the debt and the size of interest payments. Just as important, it would lower overall interest rates, and increase more jobs. This means college graduates would have an easier time to find that first job, buy that first home, pay off their student loans, and provide for their children.

I believe the continuation of student financial aid programs is vital. These programs not only give students the opportunity to receive an education that is essential in today's society, but they also allow America to keep a competitive edge in competition in our increasingly global economy. It is essential that the U.S. work force be an educated one that is ready to compete with other countries of the world. Providing adequate financial support for students will achieve this essential goal. Young people should have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and achieve their dreams.

I will continue fighting for affordable, accessible student financial aid programs and to secure a better future for the young people of South Dakota.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, July 11, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,152,639,995,932.57.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,423.80 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 Environment and Public Works.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 3755. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

At 12:44 p.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. 2428. An act to encourage the donation of food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to needy individuals by giving the Model Good Samaritan Food Donation Act the full force and effect of law.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1861. An act to make technical corrections in the Satellite Home Viewer Act of 1994 and other provisions of title 17, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3341. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Capitol Preservation Fund; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3342. A communication from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States," (RIN0648-AI21) received on July 2, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3343. A communication from the Office of the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the interstate average schedules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3344. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area," received on June 28, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3345. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Broadband PCS Competitive Bidding and the Commercial Mobile Radio Service Spectrum Cap; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3346. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the growth of the Universal Service Fund; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3347. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to redesignate the title of the National Cemetery System and the position of the Director of the National Cemetery System; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3348. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to ensure that appropriated funds are not used for operation of golf courses on real property controlled by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3349. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled "Reestablishing Rule-making Procedures," (RIN2900-AI32) received on June 27, 1996; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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-652. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

"LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 54

"Whereas the State of Alaska is within the jurisdiction of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; and

"Whereas the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit consists of the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington and