

in Washington, and on the Government workers who have been hostages in this debate.

However, one of the faces not shown on the evening news as a hostage in these talks is that of the American farmer.

As I travel around rural America, farmers remind me that they are taxpayers too. And as taxpayers, farmers want a balanced budget.

Rural America realizes what this balanced budget means for them. For agriculture alone, spending on interest with a balanced budget is projected to decline by \$15 billion over 7 years. And for a lot of family farmers who struggle to make ends meet, the money saved by reduced interest payments could make the difference between success and failure.

In addition, the Balanced Budget Act would provide much needed tax relief to millions of rural Americans; including an increase in expensing limits, death tax relief, an increased deductibility for the health insurance cost of the self employed, a capital gains tax cut, and operation of a medical savings account.

Mr. President, along with putting America on course to a balanced budget, there is something else that Congress must do to be fair to America's farmers.

I believe we have an obligation to announce by the end of February, if not sooner, the details of a farm bill so farmers can prepare this year's crop. Kansas farmers have already planted their winter wheat without knowing any program details.

In my view, Mr. President, Congress has three options from which we can choose.

Option No. 1 is to do nothing, and to simply let the 1990 farm bill expire, which would mean that permanent law would be in effect.

Anyone who knows anything about permanent law realizes such action would be bad for farmers and bad for America. Farm prices would reach parity levels which to many may sound attractive. However, the long-term ramifications to the marketplace and U.S. Treasury would be significant. Farmers would produce for the Government and not the marketplace.

Option No. 2 is to pass an extension of the 1990 farm bill. This in my view, would also be the wrong road to take.

Those who are advocating this choice are unwilling to modernize American agricultural policy as we prepare to move into the next century. The world population will grow by 50 percent by 2025. We must provide American agriculture with the tools to unleash our Nation's productive capacity to meet a growing world demand. An extension of current farm policy without addressing changes that have occurred and continue to occur, is unacceptable to a majority of farmers in this country.

If we are going to have an extension, it has to be at least for a couple of years. You have to give farmers flexi-

bility, and you have to remove production controls.

Option No. 3—which is the correct choice—is to adopt the farm bill proposals contained in the Balanced Budget Act.

One year ago, I spoke to the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting in St. Louis. While there, I outlined some of my goals for the 1995 farm bill. These goals included providing farmers with full planting flexibility, elimination of set-asides, program simplicity, and a farm policy that transitions farmers into the next century without disrupting the farm economy or land values. All of these goals are reached in the language contained in the Balanced Budget Act.

Unfortunately, that act was vetoed and we must now address how to best proceed. I am hopeful that provisions contained in the Balanced Budget Act can be retained and can be passed before the end of February.

Mr. President, American agriculture does not operate in a vacuum. Rural Americans share the Republican conviction that Congress must balance the budget. Rural Americans realize that there are important policies outside the farm bill that greatly affect their bottom lines. Republicans are actively working to provide the needed relief that rural Americans are asking for. And we will not stop.

Mr. President, there are those who claim there has been no public input into the agricultural provisions included in the Balanced Budget Act.

I disagree. Last year, the Senate and House Agriculture Committees held 33 hearings on the 1995 farm bill with over 350 witnesses. In my view, the public input has been significant.

I also hear some colleagues talk about the need for a vote on the Senate democratic proposal which would reduce the agriculture savings and provide and increase in marketing loans.

I would simply point out that Senator HARKIN offered this amendment during Senate consideration of the reconciliation bill. The vote failed 31 to 68 with 15 Democrats voting with Republicans to defeat the amendment.

The fact is that we have debated farm policy. And adopting the agriculture provisions contained in the Balanced Budget Act is right for our farmers and the right path for America.

Mr. President, I point out to my colleagues that the suggestion has been made that maybe there is an alternative plan. We had a vote on that plan, offered by Senator HARKIN. We voted 68 to 31 in opposition to that proposal.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). The minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I did not have the opportunity to hear everything that the majority leader said. I understand he spoke about agriculture.

Let me just say that I do not know what the solution is, but I think the

majority leader and I both agree that we have to do something. We have a lot of farmers who have already planted everything that they are going to plant for their winter wheat, for their crops. That will be ready for harvest by spring or late spring. We have to do something. If we cannot do it in 1 year, maybe a 2-year extension is something that we ought to look at. But I do not think that doing nothing ought to be an option that either party agrees to.

While there is very little support on the other side of the aisle for the so-called marketing loan concept, that marketing loan would allow farmers to be given at least the confidence that they are going to have a plan out there that is market-sensitive; that costs less for the Government; that provides us with the kind of opportunity in the farm program that many farmers feel they need. Virtually every national farm organization has said they support it.

So I hope we can work something out. I know that in working with majority leader in good faith, we can find a way to resolve what may now appear to be some very difficult challenges in agreeing on a farm policy. But we have to do it. I hope we can do it as early as next week. We cannot wait much longer.

Again, while I did not hear what the majority leader said, I am sure he shares the need to be as expeditious as possible in finding some resolution.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me indicate to my colleague that is sort of what I pointed out. There are, as I see it, three options. We talked about it to some extent today at the White House. But I appreciate that.

Of course, we need to do something because, as the minority leader indicated, our winter wheat farmers have already planted their wheat. They do not know what the program is going to be. They are taking a chance, as they do from time to time.

HOPEFUL SIGNS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I wish to offer my strong support for the administration's recent, extraordinary efforts to broker a peace treaty between Israel and Syria.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of bringing Israel and Syria into a peaceful, normal relationship. Their conflict is virtually the last remaining obstacle to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. If Syria and Israel are able to overcome their differences, sign an agreement, and establish diplomatic relations, it is nearly certain that other Arab states—Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Gulf countries—would soon follow suit. From that point forward, the region's prospects for political, economic, and social advancement would become almost limitless.

It is a sad irony that the peace talks being held in Wye, Maryland arose out

of the tragic assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. If the Wye talks succeed in producing an agreement, it will surely add yet another dimension to the Prime Minister's legacy as a peacemaker. I only lament the fact that the price would have been so dear.

It is too early to tell what result these talks may have, but already there have been suggestions from the participants that they are operating in an unprecedented environment of comity, seriousness, and creativity. While a positive atmosphere does guarantee success on the important questions of substance, it does lend hope to those who watched the failure of the previous, stale rounds of discussions.

In the next few weeks, it is expected that the Syrian and Israeli delegations will consult with their governments, Secretary of State Christopher will shuttle to the capitals of the Middle East, and the talks will reconvene. At the same time, everyone associated with the talks knows that the Israeli and American electoral cycles afford precious little time for a deal to be concluded. Under these circumstances—a high level of activity, a small window of opportunity, and a new spirit of cooperation—progress is likely to occur quickly or not at all.

Secretary of State Christopher and his Middle East peace team clearly understand their opportunities and their limitations, and have made every effort to steer Israel and Syria in the proper direction. While ultimately it remains the decision of the parties themselves to make peace, there is indeed a place for American leadership and engagement. Secretary Christopher, Ambassador Dennis Ross, and their colleagues at the State Department deserve the Nation's highest respect and gratitude for the energy, devotion, and intellect they have brought to the peace table.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business January 4, the Federal debt stood at \$4,988,799,676,202.14, about \$12 billion shy of the \$5 trillion mark, which the Federal debt will exceed in a few months.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,937.57 as his or her share of that debt.

THE DEATH OF ADM. ARLEIGH A. BURKE, U.S. NAVY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, on Thursday, January 4, 1996, the Nation paid its final tribute to a naval hero and patriot whose profound influence spanned more than 70 years and who laid down the blueprint of today's balanced fleet almost 40 years ago. I want to take this opportunity to honor the truly vital contributions made by that man, Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, who died on January 1, 1996, at the age of 94. He

was buried on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD where he graduated in 1923. At sea and on land he was among the finest leaders that our country has produced. He stood watch on active service to our country for more than 40 years, rising from a meager farm at the foot of the Colorado Rockies to serve as Chief of Naval Operations for an unprecedented 6 years during the bleakest days of the cold war.

Admiral Burke defined himself by an unwavering commitment to making the most of every opportunity presented and giving the best he had to every challenge that confronted him. When reminded of his earliest days of commissioned service, leading cleaning teams through the bilges of the USS *Arizona* (BB 39), he once observed, "You have only one job. Very seldom do you get the job you want. Do the best you can with the job you have. If it isn't very important, do it better. When you do a job well, it makes itself important." This straightforward approach to life, combined with an unwavering commitment to those with whom he served, produced an exceptional naval officer and leader who, in the words of our current Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Boorda, "—defined what it is to be a naval officer: relentless in combat, resourceful in command, and revered by his crews." He was a man who received all the honors a grateful nation could bestow during his lifetime, yet chose for his burial marker the simple phrase "Sailor" to capture the sum and substance of his life.

As commander of Destroyer Squadron 23, "The Little Beavers", during World War II, he carried the fight to the Japanese navy night after night in the Solomon Islands, earned the nickname "31 Knot Burke" from Admiral Halsey, and did as much as any man to turn the tide of battle against an Imperial Japanese Fleet that was flushed by an unbroken series of victories. Over a sustained campaign of 4 months, his squadron turned the tide of battle in the Solomons at Empress Augusta Bay, off Cape St. George. In "The Slot" and in 22 desperate engagements they produced a rich harvest of sunken ships and downed aircraft.

As commander of the "Little Beavers," Admiral Burke showed a remarkable ability to absorb the lessons of experience and then distill them into battle orders and combat tactics that inspired his men and took maximum advantage of every weapon at his disposal. He taught his squadron to fight at night, to fight with stealth through the use of torpedoes over guns, to strike quickly with maximum power, and to seize the initiative in battle and never let it go. He instructed his commanders concisely that, "The difference between a good officer and a poor one is about 10 seconds" and set their priorities clearly. "If it helps kill the enemy it is important. If it will not help kill the enemy it is not important."

Serving on the Chief of Naval Operations staff after World War II, Arleigh Burke played an extraordinary and vital part in clearly explaining the pivotal role the Navy could have in preserving national security during the cold war. He was not a controversial man by nature, but he never shunned it when the needs of the Navy and our country made their demands. During a postwar period of intense and bitter interservice rivalry that almost cost him his career, Arleigh Burke was a clear voice of logic and sanity in stating the case for a Navy that time and again responded to emerging cold war crises worldwide.

It was my great privilege to have served as a member of the Armed Services Committee and worked with Admiral Burke during his tenure as Chief of Naval Operations. I speak from first hand experience when I reflect on the vision, forcefulness, intellect, and leadership that he brought to bear on his duties. From his razor sharp mind came the concepts of a balanced multi-mission Navy that could deal with crises on short notice yet stay for the long haul when needed, antisubmarine warfare and tactics as a top priority, the tremendous potential of nuclear power for naval ships, *Polaris* missiles at sea as an essential element of nuclear deterrence, and an unwavering commitment to "training as we'll fight and fighting to win."

Many able naval leaders have served our country well since Admiral Burke retired in 1961. I have worked with them all. They have been men of great talent and commitment, but they have all had the advantage of following a course that was clearly charted for them by Arleigh Burke, combat hero of World War II, a great naval leader of the cold war, a man who stepped down willingly when offered a remarkable fourth term as CNO to make way for younger men. He was a "sailor's sailor."

The Navy shares my admiration. It honored him in his lifetime by naming the most powerful class of surface combatant in the world, the *Arleigh Burke* class destroyer, for him. His legacy to the crew of the first ship was the simple observation, "This ship was built to fight, you had better know how."

I want to express my condolences to Mrs. Roberta Burke, Admiral Burke's widow and wife of 72 years. She cherished and sustained her husband in peace and war, a "Sailor's Wife". She has set a standard of service and commitment for thousands of naval families who must daily endure the stress of family separation that accompanies service at sea. Without the sacrifices that Mrs. Burke and many other spouses have shouldered, our Navy could not have been the force for freedom that has helped guard this country and support our allies for so many years.

I had the privilege of working with Arleigh Burke for several years. I came to admire him immensely. I always