

In Washington, the argument over court vacancies continues. On April 30, Attorney General Janet Reno told the Judiciary Committee, "Chief judges are calling my staff to report the prospect of canceling court sittings and suspending civil calendars for lack of judges, and to ask when they can expect help. This committee must act now to send this desperately needed help."

In remarks yesterday to the Federal Judges Association meeting in Washington, Reno warned that "the number [of vacancies] is growing."

"As you are no doubt aware," Reno told the judges, "the level of contentiousness on the issue of filling judicial vacancies has unfortunately increased in recent times."

#### FIELD HEARING ON INTRASTATE AIR SERVICE IN COLORADO

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I want to call my colleagues' attention to an important issue facing the Western Slope of my home State of Colorado; namely, the lack of quality and reliable air service.

I have long been concerned about this problem facing the residents and the business community in western Colorado. I have received hundreds of complaints from constituents up and down the Western Slope and have experienced many of these problems myself. For example, on numerous occasions I have found myself waiting for a delayed flight for several hours only to find out later on that the flight had been canceled. On one occasion, the pilot showed up only to announce that he was not certified to fly the plane.

To address this issue, I held a field hearing on Wednesday, April 2, in Grand Junction, CO, to hear testimony firsthand from citizens and representatives of the business community. Witnesses at the hearing included representatives from the airlines industry, consumers as well as the business community.

The testimony presented reflected the deep concern among business leaders and consumers in western Colorado about the lack of adequate air service. Many of the witnesses testified to the lack of competition in air service in western Colorado after deregulation. They further stressed that their concerns center around late arrivals, canceled flights, discontinuation of service, over booked flights, inadequate aircraft that cannot handle passenger baggage, inadequate safety procedures, inconvenient schedules and costs and high turnover of pilots.

Because of the importance of this testimony, I wrote to the acting administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Mr. Barry Valentine, on April 18, requesting the FAA's review of this material and requested a report from the FAA on ways in which air service can be improved on the Western Slope and how the witnesses' concerns can be addressed. I also provided a complete set of this testimony to the Senate Aviation Subcommittee, so it can be used in future subcommittee work on commuter air service.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of

the witness list be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER, without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. CAMPBELL. I am more concerned now than ever about the quality of air service in Colorado, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on improving air service in this important region of our country.

#### EXHIBIT 1

##### LIST OF WITNESSES PRESENT AT THE HEARING

Mr. Greg Walcher, President of Club 20.  
Mr. Benard Buescher, Colorado Transportation Commissioner.  
Mr. John Frew, President and CEO of Colorado Ski Country U.S.A.  
Mr. Jamie Hamilton, Vice President of the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce.  
Mr. J.J. Johnston, Executive Director of the Mesa County Economic Development Council.  
Ms. Debbie Kovalik, Executive Director of the Grand Junction Visitor Bureau.  
Mr. Mark Berumen, Governmental Affairs Coordinator for Frontier Airlines.  
Mr. Cody Ddiekroger, Founder and President of Maverick Airlines.  
Mr. Don Schreiber, Vice President of Governmental Relations for Mesa Air Group.  
Mr. Dave Logan, Partner, Park Avenue Travel Agency.  
Ms. Jo Saul, Owner, Jo's Travel Source in Durango.  
Ms. Cindy Stanfield, Owner, the Travel Connection Agency in Grand Junction.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 14, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,339,781,396,107.91. (Five trillion, three hundred thirty-nine billion, seven hundred eighty-one million, three hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred seven dollars and ninety-one cents)

One year ago, May 14, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,096,217,000,000. (Five trillion, ninety-six billion, two hundred seventeen million)

Five years ago, May 14, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,893,082,000,000. (Three trillion, eight hundred ninety-three billion, eighty-two million)

Ten years ago, May 14, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,272,137,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred seventy-two billion, one hundred thirty-seven million)

Fifteen years ago, May 14, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,062,129,000,000 (One trillion, sixty-two billion, one hundred twenty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,277,652,396,107.91 (Four trillion, two hundred seventy-seven billion, six hundred fifty-two million, three hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred seven dollars and ninety-one cents) during the past 15 years.

#### NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today because a bill is being introduced by Senators ROTH, MOYNIHAN, and members of the Finance Committee which seeks to amend trade laws and provisions referring to "Most Favored

Nation" [MFN] trading status. They seek to rename MFN, "Normal Trade Relations."

I am not joining my Finance Committee colleagues on this bill today. But I would gladly support this initiative once the United States has an effective China policy.

Mr. President, the reason we annually consider China's trade, human rights, and national security behavior during the MFN renewal debate is because we do not have an acceptable alternative. The goal, therefore, of this year's debate should not be to simply extend or revoke MFN for the PRC. I suggest, instead, that we endeavor to address the shortcomings of our China policy so that we do not need the annual MFN issue to debate China.

Mr. President, we need a real China policy to replace the MFN revocation threat, not a name change. If the issue were just about the name, Americans would not voice such strong opposition to trading with China as if it were a normal country. The fact is, Mr. President, China is not like other trading nations. It is perhaps the worst violator of human rights and weapons non-proliferation standards in the world. The PRC trades unfairly, persecutes people of faith, imprisons and tortures democrats, proliferates weapons technology, sells arms to street gangs in the United States, and disbands democratic institutions in Hong Kong. The PRC does this while receiving international aid, American technology—much with military applications, and free access to the American market. This so-called engagement policy seems hollow and dangerous. Merely changing the name of MFN will not change this reality.

Mr. President, I traveled to Hong Kong and China in late March this year with my colleague and fellow co-chair of the Senate's Hong Kong caucus, Senator LIEBERMAN of Connecticut.

I returned from this mission more concerned about Hong Kong than when I departed. The Chinese leadership tried to put to rest my concerns for Hong Kong by reassuring me that democracy would be returned to Hong Kong once the people received proper civic education. This distrust of people is apparent in China's actions toward Hong Kong's civil and political freedoms.

It also caused me to renew my concern for our China policy. My position on this bill, and on the MFN debate in general, arises from my desire for good relations with China. I know this is in the best interest of America, China, and the world.

There are a tremendous number of issues which Americans wish to raise with China. In 1997, these include Hong Kong reversion, weapons proliferation, religious persecution, PRC-Taiwan relations, human rights, involvement in U.S. elections, and our unequal trade relationship.

Many people advise, however, that opposing MFN represents a hollow—essentially meaningless—threat. And yet, without a responsible alternative, Members of Congress must choose between voting to revoke MFN or taking no action. Neither option is acceptable. Neither choice is in our Nation's best interest.

So that our children and the children of China do not inherit an adversarial relationship, we must do two things in 1997. First, we must engage in a domestic debate on China; we must get beyond hollow engagement and hollow threats. Second, we must ensure our policy demonstrates to China that their actions have consequences: That they are a member of the world community and actions which violate agreements and norms are not merely internal matters.

As many people know, I had discussed an idea to extend the current MFN status for the PRC for an additional 3 months in 1997. In offering this idea, I sought to accomplish the above two goals. It is too late for the House to take action on the 3-month extension as I had proposed it, but it is not too late for us to unite behind a call for action.

Mr. President, I agree with my distinguished Finance Committee colleagues who believe we must get beyond the annual MFN revocation threat. But the way to do this is not to change the name of MFN; we must address the real problem. We must develop new instruments which address our interests with China.

I fear, Mr. President, that the name change does not accomplish this most important goal; in fact, to the extent that it decreases our resolve to discuss China, this bill jeopardizes our national interests. It is for this reason that I do not join my colleagues today in offering this name-change legislation.

Instead, I invite the Congress and the President to join me in making the best use of this year's debate. We must utilize this time to develop and advance our China policy, not merely put it off for another year.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1997

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, we have heard a lot of talk over the past several days about the issue of partial-birth abortion, about late-term abortion, about the need to have an option available should a pregnancy go awry, and in describing when a pregnancy

goes awry they have described the need to have a health exception in cases where there is a fetal abnormality, where a baby is developing in the womb that is not perfect.

Now we have heard all of the horrible accounts of Dr. McMahon performing partial-birth abortions on children because they had cleft palates or other very minor—Down's syndrome, and other minor, or not life-threatening maladies. That, in my mind, is an indefensible defense for a health exception.

I found it absolutely astonishing that Members would have gotten up yesterday and talked about the need to have partial-birth abortion as an option to dispose of children who were developing in the womb with a defect. They did so at the same time, the same day, we passed IDEA, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the same day that people passionately got up on the floor and argued for the rights of the disabled to be educated, to maximize their human potential, and some 30 Senators who voted for that voted today to wipe out the ban on partial-birth abortion.

Now, I find that absolutely incongruous. How can you fight for the rights of the disabled to be educated? How can you fight for the rights of the disabled under the Americans With Disabilities Act, which all of those Members, to my knowledge, those that were here, supported, back in 1990, I believe it was. How can you support that stand and say you care about the disabled, that you want to maximize their potential, that you want to treat them with dignity and give them civil rights, when you will not give them the most basic of civil rights, the right to live in the first place?

If you survive the womb, if you survive Roe versus Wade, which allows you to be destroyed because you are not perfect—yes, Roe versus Wade, Doe versus Bolton, allow you to be destroyed because you are not perfect. I know that may click some sort of memory of people who remember what happened across the Atlantic some 50 and 60 years ago, that just because you were not perfect, you were not deserving to live.

We have Members, standing here, arguing that we need to be able to have the option of killing a little baby because it is not perfect. They say, oh, that history that happened 50, 60 years ago, could never repeat itself. It cannot happen. Oh, how history tends to repeat itself, even here on the Senate floor.

I find it absolutely amazing that people are not shocked by their own words, that they do not understand, as the Bible says, that a house divided against itself, that you cannot stand up on one side and argue for rights of the disabled at the same time saying they do not even have the right to be born in the first place, they are not going to be protected by our Constitution, they are not going to be protected by our laws.

I will share with you tonight some stories, stories of people with disabilities, diagnosed in the womb. I will share with you some happy stories, and I will share with you some sad stories. But even in the sad stories you will find a silver lining, a lining that would not be there if it were not for someone who cared enough to treat their child with dignity and respect, cared enough to love them as fully as they loved any one of their other children.

You heard me talk earlier today, yesterday, about Donna Joy Watts. One of the cases cited over and over again by people who want to create a health exception in the partial-birth abortion bill is that there are times when a baby's head has excess fluid, cerebral spinal fluid, and it is called hydrocephaly, water on the brain. Donna Joy Watts was one of the babies that was diagnosed with hydrocephaly, and another malady where the brain was actually growing outside of the skull.

The doctors diagnosed her condition as fatal and told her mother and father they would have to abort her, and her mother and father said, "At 7½ months we are not going to abort our child. Why not give her a chance to live?" They said, "no, no, we will not give her a chance to live because she will not live. It is best for you. Trust me, you will feel a lot less pain. You need to just get on with it." These were obstetricians, genetics counselors. She had to go four places—four places—to get someone who would deliver her baby. Any of the four would have aborted her baby, but only one of the four would have delivered her baby.

We are reaching the point in this country where it is almost easier to find an abortion than it is to find a doctor to deliver a child that will have complications. The fear of lawsuit, the fear of complications, and the stress associated with it are just creating the impetus to do abortions. Nobody can sue you for doing abortions. You sign a consent form. You give up your rights. You say, "I won't sue. As long as you kill my child, I will not sue." So they don't get sued. No liability there. But if you work with the mother to deliver the child, then if mom believes you didn't tell her everything you should have, you get hit with a wrongful birth suit. In other words, "My child is better off dead than alive" kind of suit.

What kind of society allows that? What kind of society would say we put in legal doctrine a suit that says my child is better off dead than alive? What a misunderstanding of life. Every child is perfect in the eyes of God; I hope in the eyes of the mother, but we have some to go that way. We have lots of people in the medical profession who certainly do not see it that way, and counsel for abortion. In fact, at every single turn, Donny and Lori Watts were hit with "abort, abort, abort. Save yourself the trouble." She said no and he said no.

They finally delivered her. This is what she looked like. It is a little