

are going to continue to be unavoidable.

Most of those killed and injured have not done anything but try to farm, walk to school, walk to the market, walk to a hospital, take a shortcut home. Some of the children are just playing in the fields around their homes. But, on this day, playing around their homes, their farms or their schools, a landmine goes off, killing or maiming the child.

Think of it, Mr. President, every day not knowing whether any particular step you take is going to wind up in death or losing a limb or limbs. People should not have to live that way.

We, as the most powerful Nation in the world, have an obligation, I believe, with the great scientific minds we have in this country, to figure out a way to better detect those mines and to remove them.

Estimates from a year ago projected that about 100,000 landmines were being removed each year while about 2.5 million mines were being placed in the Earth each year. So what does this mean? Humanity, zero; landmines, 2.4 million every year. That is no contest.

Like most problems, the abandoned landmine problem is rooted in economics. How much does it cost to remove a landmine? Lots of money, up to \$1,000 a landmine. How much does it cost to place a landmine in the ground? A couple bucks. That is all.

The recovery costs go up dramatically when the mine field maps are lost or purposely destroyed or become so old as to engender no confidence in the minds of the recovery crews.

If we do not outlaw antipersonnel landmines, the economics guarantees proliferation of this barbaric practice. The economics of mine warfare guarantee more death and maiming and destruction unless these devices are forever outlawed and stockpiles around the world are quickly destroyed.

But the world community might not outlaw antipersonnel landmines because they are so cheap and easy to use. I say that antipersonnel landmines have no place in a civilized world. We must stop the distribution of these implements of terror that spread permanent disability, disfigurement, and death wherever they have been used.

There is pending in the Senate a bill to permanently ban the use of antipersonnel landmines. I support that legislation, as do 58 other Senators. This is the legislation that has been led by Senator LEAHY.

But even if the Senate supports this ban, others in the world community may not. The best and most effective way of banning landmines is to make them useless by making their discovery cheap and easy and by developing faster and cheaper ways of clearing landmines. This would be both a humanitarian advance and a lifesaving action for our troops on combat missions.

To do this successfully we must better develop capabilities to locate bur-

ied landmines, and then we need to develop new and more effective ways to clear them.

A few months ago, Mr. President, I made a tour of the lab at Livermore in California, one of our national laboratories. I said to them, how much money are we spending to find a way to remove these landmines? They said about \$100,000 a year.

We can do better than that.

The magnitude of this task is significant. If one man could locate and recover one landmine every hour, that would be eight devices per 8-hour day per man in the field. Today's technology, of course, does not allow us to do it anywhere near as quickly as that. But even at that rate, which we cannot achieve today, it would take 1,000 men working 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 34 years to remove the landmines that are now buried. But remember, we are putting in about 2.4 million extra ones each year.

There are a lot of ideas out there of what we can do. We need to focus on developing and deploying landmine remediation systems while continuing the research that promises better capability in the future.

An area of the Nevada test site has been equipped and used by our national laboratories for testing new ways of landmine detection and location. For example, at the Nevada test site, which was used for underground nuclear explosions and aboveground nuclear explosions, we can test these in many different ways. Systems were tested that permitted remote locations of buried landmines under favorable conditions. But much improvement is needed because conditions are almost never favorable.

We will shortly begin testing a new concept that promises a better performance, and has the added value of detecting nonmetallic landmines, because the people who develop these weapons of destruction have gone a step further. They are no longer metal, they are plastic. This new concept allows detection and discrimination of buried objects at much greater depths. But we need to do something to develop the technique.

As progress is made in landmine detection and location, we need to develop and test better ways of landmine recovery and destruction. We can do that. That is what this amendment is all about. There is plenty of talent, scientifically, to do it. We just need the support for infrastructure, personnel, equipment, and field work to do something about it.

I say, again, antipersonnel landmines have no place in the future of civilized nations. We need to get on with developing better capability to remove these devices that are already deployed. Cheaper and faster landmine clearing will protect both innocent civilians and our combat troops and it will remove much of the incentive to spread more of these terrible instruments of terror, injury, death, and destruction.

The amendment I have submitted today will permit our national laboratories to use their superb talents for accelerated development of landmine detection and clearing technologies. The report language for the National Defense Authorization Act includes direction to the Department of Defense to establish more effective collaboration with the weapons laboratories of the Department of Energy.

This amendment is consistent with that direction. It will apply an existing national resource to this important mission and it will facilitate the development and testing of a new technology that promises mine detection performance well beyond that of any existing capability. This amendment will make antipersonnel landmines useless by cheap and easy detection, localization, and removal.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to proceed for 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

BALANCING THE BUDGET

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, several weeks ago I stood at this desk during the debate on the budget resolution and offered an amendment that I thought was an eminently serious, major, defining amendment on that bill. I have been here 22½ years and I knew perfectly well that I was not going to prevail on that amendment. But I had pointed out during the course of the debate that in the 22½ years I have been here, probably the most important goal I had hoped to see achieved during my tenure in the Senate was a balanced budget.

I had, on several occasions, voted against a constitutional amendment to balance the budget simply because of my reverence for the Constitution and for my belief that economic policy has no place in the Constitution. I had always argued and will argue until my dying day that balancing the budget is a matter of will by the Members of the U.S. Congress, and to suggest that the only way we can screw up the nerve and stiffen our spines to balance the budget is to put it in the Constitution is demeaning in the extreme.

So that is why in 1993 I voted for the reconciliation bill that raised taxes and cut spending. It raised taxes on 1½ percent of the wealthiest people in America and cut spending by \$250 billion over a 5-year period, all of which

combined was supposed to reduce the deficit from what it would otherwise be by \$500 billion over the ensuing 5 years. Mr. President, that 5-year period is not yet up, but in 1998 on the fifth anniversary of the passage of that bill, it will not have saved \$500 billion, it will have saved \$1 trillion and more. That bill is responsible for the deficit going from almost \$300 billion in 1992 to what we thought was \$67 billion until today.

It has been a source of unbelievable satisfaction to me to see the deficit in 1993 go from \$290 billion anticipated to \$254; in 1994, to \$205 billion; in 1995, \$154 billion; in 1996, \$107 billion; in 1997, anticipated to be \$67 billion, and this morning's front page of the Washington Post says that because the economy is so good and people are paying taxes that the deficit this year will be \$45 billion or less. That will be the smallest deficit we have had, as we lawyers like to say, since the memory of man runneth not.

The reason I rise to speak, Mr. President, is not just to catalog that history with which all the Senators are all too familiar, but to point out another item that was included in that Washington Post story. It said if we can just get the House and Senate conferees to keep bickering for another year and not pass this tax cut, we could easily balance the budget in 1998.

Two weeks ago when I offered my amendment to forgo tax cuts, I said we should forgo tax cuts, honor what I consider to be a nonnegotiable demand by the American people to balance the budget and balance the budget in 2001, maybe even 2000. And now this morning's paper says you do not have to postpone taxes to do it in 2001. If you postpone taxes, you can do it in 1998. Never, never in modern times have we been so close to actually doing what most of us say we want to do, and that is balance the budget.

Now, Mr. President, I got a whopping 18 votes for my amendment 2 weeks ago. I am not going to call the names of the Senators that voted with me, but I hope people will look at the RECORD and see who had the courage, who had the vision and the spine to stand up on the floor of the Senate and vote for an eminently sensible proposal to balance the budget earlier, much earlier, than the bill we were debating. And 4 of those courageous 18 people were up for reelection next year. They certainly have my praise and my respect because they believe in the American people and they were willing to stand up and vote for a reduction of the deficit as opposed to a tax cut.

If you ask the American people, would you favor this \$135 billion tax cut over the next 5 years, or would you prefer a balanced budget over the next 2 years, I can tell you the answer would be 70 percent to 80 percent of the people would opt for a balanced budget.

Mr. President, the 18 votes I got to postpone the tax cuts in order to bring about a balanced budget much sooner is the smallest number of votes I have

ever received on an amendment since I have been in the Senate. And it was probably as good, as authentic and courageous an amendment as I have ever offered since I have been in the Senate. It could have changed the economic course of the country.

Mr. President, the article in the paper this morning got one thing totally wrong. The article stated that neither the Democrats nor the Republicans are going to be able to take credit for the balanced budget.

I take strong exception to that as a Democrat. Two of the finest Senators we ever had in the U.S. Senate lost their seats in 1994 because they stood up and voted for the 1993 budget which raised certain people's taxes. The House of Representatives fell to the Republicans in 1994 when NEWT GINGRICH became speaker and the U.S. Senate went to the Republicans and there was not one Republican in the House or the Senate that voted for that bill which has brought about this exhilarating chance to actually balance the budget.

So to say that President Clinton has not been courageous in proposing the 1993 budget package is a terrible injustice and it is wrong. It is his legacy. It is the legacy of this President that he stood firm on deficit reduction in offering that bill, which cost the Democrats dearly at the polls the following year. So far as I am concerned, the stock market has been soaring ever since that bill was passed in 1993, despite the promises of some of the most distinguished Senators on the other side, who said that this is going to end the world as we know it, and you are going to see people out of work and more homeless people, and you are going to see a depression if we pass this bill.

We passed the bill. The stock market took off because people were encouraged and finally believed that the people down here knew what they were doing and were finally going to screw up their nerve and give them a sound fiscal Government. It has been going on ever since, and that is precisely the reason we are within striking distance of balancing the budget right now. To say nobody can claim credit for that is a real stretch. It was President Clinton. It was not easy. Most of you will recall that the Vice President had to come over and sit in the chair and break a tie in order to pass that bill. Today, the American people are the beneficiaries.

I hope that the conferees are unable to reach an agreement on this, because if they don't reach an agreement, we can balance the budget. If they do reach an agreement, Lord only knows what the results are going to be. All we know is that the wealthiest people in America are going to get a handsome tax cut and the budget is not going to be balanced.

So, Mr. President, I rise tonight to set the record straight on what I think is an extremely important event. I was absolutely euphoric this morning to

read that the deficit that was anticipated to be \$127 billion this year was then calculated to be about \$104 billion, and then calculated about 3 months ago to be \$67 billion, and this morning calculated to be \$45 billion. It is beyond our wildest dreams. Why would we not seize the moment to forego this tax cut and do precisely what the American people want us to do? It isn't too late.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 778

(Purpose: To amend title 18, United States Code, to revise the requirements for procurement of products of Federal prison industries to meet needs of Federal agencies)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROBB, Mr. HELMS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. BURNS, proposes an amendment numbered 778.

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

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 844. PRODUCTS OF FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES.

(a) PURCHASES FROM FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES.—Section 4124 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out subsections (a) and (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following new subsections (a) and (b):

“(a) A Federal agency which has a requirement for a specific product listed in the current edition of the catalog required by subsection (d) shall—

“(1) provide a copy of the notice required by section 18 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416) to Federal Prison Industries at least 15 days before the issuance of a solicitation of offers for the procurement of such product;

“(2) use competitive procedures for the procurement of that product, unless—

“(A) the head of the agency justifies the use of procedures other than competitive procedures in accordance with section 2304(f) of title 10 or section 303(f) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253(f)); or

“(B) the Attorney General makes the determination described in subsection (b)(1) within 15 days after receiving a notice of the requirement pursuant to paragraph (1); and

“(3) consider a timely offer from Federal Prison Industries for award in accordance with the specifications and evaluation factors specified in the solicitation.

“(b) A Federal agency which has a requirement for a product referred to in subsection (a) shall—

“(1) on a noncompetitive basis, negotiate a contract with Federal Prison Industries for the purchase of the product if the Attorney General personally determines, within the period described in subsection (a)(2)(B), that—