

been working around the clock, and I am really indebted to them. I thank the distinguished chairman.

Mr. GREGG. I thank the Senator for all his work.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, in behalf of Mr. BINGAMAN, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Dr. Robert Simon on detail from the Department of Energy to his staff, during the pendency of Senate Resolution 98 or any votes occurring thereupon.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 23, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,367,622,941,689.53. (Five trillion, three hundred sixty-seven billion, six hundred twenty-two million, nine hundred forty-one thousand, six hundred eighty-nine dollars and fifty-three cents.)

One year ago, July 23, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,171,664,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred seventy-one billion, six hundred sixty-four million.)

Five years ago, July 23, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,988,415,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred eighty-eight billion, four hundred fifteen million.)

Ten years ago, July 23, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,300,098,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred billion, ninety-eight million.)

Fifteen years ago, July 23, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,086,341,000,000 (One trillion, eighty-six billion, three hundred forty-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,281,281,941,689.53 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-one billion, two hundred eighty-one million, nine hundred forty-one thousand, six hundred eighty-nine dollars and fifty-three cents) during the past 15 years.

APPROVAL OF GEORGE TENET AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, on Thursday evening, July 10, 1997, the Senate confirmed the nomination of George J. Tenet, of Maryland, to be the Director of Central Intelligence. I am delighted that the Senate has taken this action, based on the unanimous recommendation of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

George Tenet is well known to many members of the Senate, as he served with distinction as a staff member, and then Staff Director of the Senate Intelligence Committee during the service of Senator David Boren, of Oklahoma, when he was Chairman of that Committee. When Senator Boren retired, to take up the post of President of the University of Oklahoma, George became the Assistant to the President for Intelligence matters on the staff of the National Security Council, and served with great distinction in that capacity. As a result of that service, he was asked by Mr. John Deutsch to be the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence when Mr. Deutsch was appointed Director, and he has served as the Acting Director since January of this year when Mr. Deutsch returned to the private sector. Mr. Tenet has been praised on the floor by the current leadership of the Senate Intelligence Committee, by the Chairman, the distinguished Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, and the Ranking Democrat, the distinguished Senator from Nebraska, Mr. KERREY. They have praised Mr. Tenet's capabilities, judgment and character. I wish to express my own confidence in his leadership and I believe he has the capacity to bring the agency out of the unfortunate period that it has recently experienced which was tarnished by espionage scandals, and too rapid a turnover in the Office of the Director. He faces the challenge of bringing morale up, as well as restoring public and Congressional confidence in the intelligence organization of the nation. It is his responsibility to ensure that the Intelligence Community performs on the basis of the highest standards of integrity, and that the tremendous analytical, technical, and personnel resources that the community possesses, without rival in the world, are brought to bear on the often dangerous and difficult targets and areas of concern that constitute the intelligence agenda of the nation.

Mr. Tenet is already known as a strong leader with clear focus and a broad vision. I do not believe there is any recent Director of Central Intelligence that I have dealt with that brings as strong a knowledge of and constituency in the Senate as he enjoys. Intelligence in the confusing and shifting world of this post-cold war era is vital to both branches of the national government, and to be successful must enjoy the strong support of both of them. George is uniquely qualified to bring about a working consensus on the priorities, activities and budget of the intelligence community. He enjoys an extraordinarily deep reservoir of support here in the Senate, and I believe in the White House and the Intelligence Community as well. He is an outstanding choice, and the President is to be commended on his selection. I look forward to working with him to ensure that the highly dedicated, talented and courageous individuals who serve the nation silently day and night

across the globe enjoy the support that they need to carry out their duties. I wish him a long, fruitful and rewarding tenure as our new Director of Central Intelligence.

CNN'S COVERAGE OF THE SENATE CAMPAIGN FINANCE HEARINGS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, Cable News Network announced this week that it would provide live television coverage of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearings on campaign finance activities. But, Mr. President, their decision was based only on the fact that former Republican National Committee chairman, Haley Barbour, is scheduled to testify.

CNN has been suspiciously absent in its live coverage of the hearings, only allowing its viewers to see the opening statements of the chairman and the ranking member during the past 2 weeks of the hearings.

As I understand it, CNN based its decision to provide live coverage of Mr. Barbour's testimony on the judgment that he has celebrity status. Or, as CNN's own Washington Bureau chief, Frank Sesno, called them yesterday, "major players".

That is a decision more fitting of the program "Entertainment Tonight", instead of a network which prides itself on being the world's leader of news.

I am certain that I am not the only one disappointed by CNN's decision to forgo live coverage of the hearings. In fact, on CNN's own Internet web page, an overwhelming number of CNN's viewers are distressed over the network's failure to provide live coverage.

One viewer wrote, and I quote:

Although I am very pleased that you are carrying the campaign finance hearings through your Web site, I must say after all of the interminable O.J. hearings you carried live on CNN, why on God's earth aren't you carrying the hearings as well? I am very disappointed.

It was signed by Jim Merrick on July 16.

Mr. President, there has been such sufficient controversy over the CNN's lack of live coverage of the hearings—and even the lack of regular coverage of the hearings by the other television networks—that CNN devoted a substantial portion of its program "Inside Politics" on Tuesday, to discuss the uproar.

In a roundtable discussion, where journalists interview each other about what a great job they're doing, CNN's Judy Woodruff asked ABC's Hal Bruno about the difference of these hearings as compared to the Watergate and Iran-Contra hearings. Hal Bruno replied, and I quote:

Government was at a standstill in Washington as a result of Watergate and the whole country was immersed in it. And the same was true to a lesser degree with Iran-Contra. These were major stories of revelations of criminal wrongdoing.

Mr. President, Hal Bruno's comment is an outrage.

For one, the country was immersed in these events because the television networks were carrying the hearings live.

And furthermore, the campaign finance hearings have uncovered much more serious charges and allegations. They include: Espionage, foreign influence peddling, campaign corruption and even money laundering. Just look at this summary by the staff of the Governmental Affairs Committee on what has been revealed so far during 2 weeks of hearings.

Hal Bruno's statement is ludicrous, and CNN's lack of live coverage of the hearings proves that they are ignoring a major news story.

Mr. President, I have written a letter to CNN president, Tom Johnson, and CNN Washington Bureau chief, Frank Sesno, expressing my disappointment and anger over their decision. This is the same network that covered endless hours of the O.J. Simpson murder trial—a news event that affected relatively few Americans. I have not yet received a reply from my letter, and I doubt I will.

Mr. President, I ask for unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the summary of highlights of the first 2 weeks of hearings by the Governmental Affairs hearings, and my letter to CNN's president and Washington Bureau chief.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE,
Washington, DC, July 22, 1997.

Mr. TOM JOHNSON,
President, CNN, Atlanta, GA.

DEAR MR. JOHNSON: I am disappointed over CNN's unwillingness to provide live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Senate Governmental Affairs hearings on campaign finance activities. If you had been carrying the hearings, your viewers would have been able to watch the testimony of witnesses who gave compelling evidence of criminal wrongdoing by foreign donors to the Democratic party during the 1996 elections. The result of such testimony even prompted a key Democrat on the committee, Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, to publicly acknowledge that there was a Chinese government plan to influence the elections. Unfortunately, CNN viewers were not given the opportunity to draw their own conclusions.

Now, I have come to learn that your network is planning to provide live coverage of this week's scheduled testimony of former Republican National Committee chairman, Haley Barbour. Unlike previous witnesses, who linked one Democratic fundraiser to possible charges of espionage and illegal influence buying and peddling, Mr. Barbour has not been charged with any crime nor has he broken any laws. Why does CNN deem Mr. Barbour's testimony so important as to merit live coverage? Is your network "celebrity watching"—like "Entertainment Tonight"?

What can be said about CNN's decision to only provide live coverage of Mr. Barbour's testimony is media bias at best, and tabloid journalism at worst. Your intensive coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial suggests that the later is more accurate. It's apparent that CNN has already decided what the public is

interested in watching instead of the public making that decision for themselves.

Sincerely,

LARRY E. CRAIG,
Chairman.

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS OF TESTIMONY OF
FIRST TWO WEEKS OF HEARINGS BY THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
INTO 1996 CAMPAIGN FINANCE ABUSES

DNC Finance Director Richard Sullivan acknowledged that the DNC's process for vetting contributions had "atrophied," and that the Republican Party's system for vetting contributions was "much more systematic, complex and thorough" than the Democratic Party's system.

The Committee learned that John Huang was pushed for his job at the DNC by a foreign corporation and its head, James Riady, a close friend of President Clinton.

The Committee learned that Huang was also pushed for his fund-raising position by senior White House officials, like Harold Ickes, but he was not hired by the DNC until President Clinton himself pushed for Huang's hiring.

The Committee revealed several instances of foreign contributions being laundered into the DNC:

(1) Yogesh Gandhi made a \$325,000 contribution to the DNC at an event at the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel in Washington in 1996 and shortly thereafter received two \$250,000 wire transfers from a Japanese businessman named Tanaka to cover the contribution. This was Gandhi's first US political contribution and the \$325,000 represented more than half the funds raised by the DNC at the Sheraton-Carlton event.

(2) Johnny Chung contributed \$50,000 to the DNC in March 1996, at a time when he had less than \$10,000 in his account. A few days after making the contribution Chung received a \$50,000 wire transfer from the Bank of China. Soon after making the \$50,000 contribution from these funds, Chung attended the President's weekly radio address with 5 visiting Chinese officials and guests.

(3) In 1992 John Huang contributed \$50,000 on behalf of Hip Hing Holdings, a Riady-owned company in Los Angeles, and sought reimbursement for the contribution from Lippo Group in Indonesia.

The Committee also revealed that Chinese arms merchant Wang Jun, son of a prominent Communist official whose arms company has been accused of selling cruise missiles to Iran, attended an event with the President after he contributed \$50,000 to the DNC through Ernest Green of Lehman Brothers.

The Committee learned that Gregory Loutschansky, a former Soviet citizen living in Tel Aviv who is reputed to be an international gun-runner and drug-smuggler, was invited by the DNC to an October 1995 dinner with the President, but was denied a visa by the State Department to enter the US.

The Committee learned that Roger Tamraz, a US citizen and major DNC donor, was invited by the DNC to meet with the Vice President, but the invitation was withdrawn after the Vice President's staff objected because Tamraz had "a shady reputation." Despite the fact that Tamraz was deemed unacceptable to meet the Vice President, the DNC invited Tamraz to four subsequent events with the President.

The Committee learned that President Clinton's friend Charlie Trie made a \$50,000 contribution to the DNC in June 1995 and raised large amounts for the Presidential Legal Expense Trust, even though a financial disclosure form he filled out after securing a presidential appointment showed he earned only \$60,000 that year.

The Committee learned that John Huang had worked for Lippo Bank in Los Angeles, but the CEO of the Bank did not know what Huang did in his office.

The Committee learned that Lippo Group, run by the Riady family, which employed Huang, had over the past few years become a major business partner with China Resources, a trading company wholly owned by the Government of the People's Republic of China, which has reportedly served as an intelligence-collection front for China.

The Committee learned that Huang was given a political appointment in the Commerce Department, but his boss, Commerce Under secretary Jeffrey Garten found Huang totally unqualified for the position and limited his activities to administrative duties.

The Committee learned that Huang was "walled off" from handling China trade policy and was allowed to handle only some matters related to Taiwan.

The Committee learned that despite being "walled off" from China policy, Huang was given intelligence briefings on China.

The Committee learned that while he was at the Commerce Department, Huang had a Top Secret security clearance and received 37 intelligence briefings, at which he was shown 10 to 15 intelligence reports, meaning that he saw between 370 and 550 pieces of intelligence.

The Committee learned that of the pieces of intelligence shown to Huang, he kept possession of 12 classified documents until the end of his tenure at the Commerce Department.

The Committee learned that while he served as a relatively low-level political functionary at the Commerce Department, Huang made at least 67 visits to the White House, often meeting with senior officials on US trade policy.

The Committee learned that while he worked at the Commerce Department, Huang routinely and regularly used the office of Stephens Inc., a Little rock-based company with an office across the street from the Commerce Department, to send and receive phone calls, faxes, and packages, which a Stephens employee testified no other non-Stephens employee did.

The Committee learned that Huang had over 400 contacts with Lippo bank and Lippo group employees and associates while he worked at the Commerce Department, was receiving classified information, attending White House briefings, and using the Stephens Inc. office to send and receive messages and faxes.

The Committee learned that Huang did make personal calls from his Commerce Department phone, indicating that he was not using the Stephens office to avoid using his official phone for personal matters.

The Committee learned that while he served at the Commerce Department, Huang made six visits to the Chinese Embassy and had three other contacts with Chinese Embassy officials, even though he had been "walled off" from anything having to do with China.

The Committee learned that while he served at the Commerce Department, Huang may have illegally solicited several large contributions for the DNC, for which his wife Jane was listed as the solicitor by the DNC, from several individuals.

July 22, 1997.

Mr. TOM JOHNSON,
President, CNN, Atlanta, GA.

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Sincerely,

LARRY E. CRAIG,
Chairman.

HONORING THE SUETTERLINS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death us do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Catherine and Martin Suetterlin of St. Louis County, MO, who on September 27, 1997, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Suetterlins' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a Senate resolution submitted by the distinguished Senator from Idaho. Senate Resolution 96 sponsored by Senator LARRY CRAIG would designate the week of March 15 through March 21, 1998 as "National Safe Place Week."

Project Safe Place is a creative approach to serving youth and families in crisis. I am particularly pleased to co-sponsor this resolution on behalf of the

first program started in my home State of Kentucky. Project Safe Place began in a firehouse in Louisville, KY in 1983, providing a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse, and crime. Safe Places put distressed children and families in touch with the resources they need to keep them safe. This assistance often comes in the form of counseling and a safe and secure place to stay.

Today, the Safe Place Program has spread to 34 States across the country. More than 6,000 business locations displaying the black and yellow Safe Place sign indicating that those in need can seek help from those inside.

The Safe Place Program exemplifies the best in our local communities. Project Safe Place is about community businesses and volunteers working together to help the most vulnerable in our society. It is essential that we bring this valuable program to every community, because those in need feel more comfortable in turning to resources in their own neighborhoods and communities.

By designating March 15 through March 21, 1998 as "National Safe Place Week," we not only bring public awareness to this outstanding program, but recognize those volunteers and businesses who give so much to make our communities a truly safe place. I urge my colleagues to lend their names to this worthwhile legislation.

RETIREMENT OF CAROLE STEVENSON

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about a dedicated Senate employee, Carole Stevenson, who is retiring after 30 years of Federal service. Carole worked for me when I served as chairman of the Rules Committee. She currently works on the staff of our colleague, TIM JOHN-SON.

Carole held a number of jobs as she went about acquiring her 30 years of service. She worked for Senators Capehart and Kefauver in the fifties, the Architect of the Capitol and the executive branch in the sixties, and the Office of Technology Assessment in the mid-seventies. She even took off a decade to have and raise a family.

Carole joined the staff of the Senate Rules Committee in 1977 and stayed for 20 years. She held a variety of jobs, moving from front office receptionist, to room reservationist, to secretary and staff assistant in the Technical Services section of the Rules Committee.

To put it simply, Carole was a hard worker who took pride in her work. She always wanted to do a good job for her employer, and she did. She loves the Senate, so she did her best.

I want to personally thank Carole for her service to the Senate. Her many friends in this great institution will miss her. All of us wish her well in her retirement.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 the Judiciary. (The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF DRAFT LEGISLATION ENTITLED "THE IMMIGRATION REFORM TRANSITION ACT OF 1997"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 55

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to submit for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Immigration Reform Transition Act of 1997," which is accompanied by a section-by-section analysis. This legislative proposal is designed to ensure that the complete transition to the new "cancellation of removal" (formerly "suspension of deportation") provisions of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA; Public Law 104-208) can be accomplished in a fair and equitable manner consistent with our law enforcement needs and foreign policy interests.

This legislative proposal would aid the transition to IIRIRA's new cancellation of removal rules and prevent the unfairness of applying those rules to cases pending before April 1, 1997, the effective date of the new rules. It would also recognize the special circumstances of certain Central Americans who entered the United States in the 1980s in response to civil war and political persecution. The Nicaraguan Review Program, under successive Administrations from 1985 to 1995, protected roughly 40,000 Nicaraguans from deportation while their cases were under review. During this time the *American Baptist Churches v. Thornburgh* (ABC) litigation resulted in a 1990 court settlement, which protected roughly 190,000 Salvadorans and 50,000 Guatemalans. Other Central Americans have been unable to obtain a decision on their asylum applications for many years. Absent this legislative proposal, many of these individuals would be denied protection from deportation under IIRIRA's new cancellation of removal rules. Such a result would unduly harm stable families and communities here in the United States and undermine our strong interests in facilitating the development of peace and democracy in Central America.