

of changes only make sense to make sure that future generations have these retirement security programs like Medicare and Social Security to rely on for the future.

So, I am disappointed that we blinked, the White House was not supportive, and frankly our colleagues in the House were not supportive. I think that is unfortunate for both of those entities. I stand with particular pride at the U.S. Senate, that it had the courage to look ahead, to not make decisions just based on short-term fixes. Frankly, the Medicare provision here is a short-term fix. We had long-term fixes in the Senate bill and we didn't follow through, and I think that is unfortunate.

We did do a lot of other positive things in this bill, and I will support it as a result of that. But I think this piece of legislation, given what the Senate did in their courageous action by going out on Medicare and setting the course, missed a tremendous opportunity.

One final comment. There is an additional concern I have about a provision in the welfare bill. There is welfare reform—or, in my opinion some of it is a backtracking on reform from the last bill. We have some positive things in this bill with respect to work, but we also have a provision in there that is very worrisome for me, as far as the ability for work programs, workfare, to work in the States. This gives the President and the Department of Labor the opportunity to designate people on workfare in an employment setting as workers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act, the minimum wage laws, and all the other laws that apply to all other employees. The problem with that is that you get into a whole host of complex things that drive up significantly the cost of providing a work slot for someone on welfare.

If you believe, as I do, that the most important thing for most of the people on welfare today is to get them into the workplace, to teach them the value of work, to give them the sense of pride which so many millions of Americans for the first time are feeling now, to get off the welfare rolls and get them into the workplace where they are doing positive works, where they are getting positive reinforcement for the things that they are accomplishing, where they are learning the ability to get up, get their children off to school or to day care or to a relative and get to work, keep those hours, work hard and come back home and manage their life—those are important life skills. If we put the barrier too high for the States, we are going to limit the number of work spots available for, really, millions of people and, I think, destroy a lot of the tremendous progress that we have made in creating an environment under this welfare reform bill that we passed last year for people to rise out of poverty, to get the kind of experience necessary to get the sense of accomplishment and self-pride that is necessary to rise out of poverty.

I am very concerned about that. I hope the administration does not pull the trigger. They are getting immense pressure from the unions to do so because the unions want to protect their piece of the pie when it comes, particularly to the public sector spots that will be filled in some cases by welfare recipients.

So, I hope the President does not bow to the unions at the expense of millions of people who want to get out of welfare and who need these work opportunities to be able to do so.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period for the transaction of morning business.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to discuss today a disinformation campaign being conducted by indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic and his Bosnian Serb henchmen, a campaign which threatens our forces in Bosnia, and a powerful tool available to the United States to counteract that campaign.

Despite his agreement to remove himself from political life, Radovan Karadzic has continued to play a leading role in Bosnian Serb politics, running the Republika Srpska from behind the scenes. Moreover, he has used the Bosnia Serb controlled radio and television to present a distorted picture to the Bosnian Serb people. Most ominously, since the arrest of one secretly indicted war criminal and the killing of another by NATO forces in Prijedor in northwestern Bosnia on July 10, Karadzic and the state controlled media have been orchestrating attacks on NATO troops.

As the New York Times reported on July 26, "television and radio broadcasts have been increasingly inflammatory." This distorted picture has been used to interfere with the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton peace accords. It has also been used to wage a smear campaign against Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, who sought to expose Karadzic's criminal activities that have brought him wealth at the expense of the Bosnian Serb people.

Karadzic has shown himself to be a master of the "no lie is too great" approach. For example, when the Office of the High Representative, the senior international civilian position created by the Dayton accords, recently announced a significant civil military project that would involve the repair of the Tuzla to Brcko railway line by an Italian Railway Regiment with funding from United States AID, the state controlled Bosnian Serb media claimed that the repair train had been modified to transport Serb civilians to the Hague. A project designed to improve the quality of life for all Bosnians in the region was twisted to frighten the

people and to foment ill-feeling towards the Stabilization Force.

Mr. President, the influence of indicted war criminal Karadzic must be checked. I believe that his control of the Bosnian Serb media is a good place to start. The United States military has the capability through the EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft to broadcast television and radio programming directly to the Bosnian people, overriding Karadzic's programming. This capability was put to successful use during Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada to inform the people on Grenada of the United States military action; during Operation Desert Storm to convince Iraqi soldiers to surrender; and during Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti to broadcast radio and television to the Haitian citizens and leaders. It could be used to get the true word out to the Bosnian Serbs.

I applaud the decision of the recent international donor's conference for Bosnia to channel money only to communities that comply with the Dayton peace accords. Republika Srpska has received only a small percentage of such aid in the past due to Karadzic's behind the scenes refusal to cooperate. He has also mounted a media disinformation campaign, accusing the international community of bias against the Bosnian Serbs when his own policies are to blame. The Bosnian Serb people need to hear the real causes for their isolation and lack of international aid.

Mr. President, paragraph 5 of article VI of the Agreement on the Military Aspects of the Dayton Peace Settlement gives the SFOR Commander the authority to do all that he judges necessary and proper to protect the SFOR and to carry out its responsibilities. I believe that it would be appropriate for the SFOR Commander to determine that the presentation of distorted reports about SFOR, the inflaming of emotions against SFOR, and the encouragement of reprisal action by the Bosnian Serb media controlled by Karadzic and the ruling Serb Democratic Party, are impeding the SFOR Commander's ability to protect SFOR and to carry out SFOR's responsibilities. Once the SFOR commander makes that determination, the Air National Guard EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft could be used to counteract Karadzic's disinformation campaign which so endangers our forces and hampers the implementation of the Dayton accords.

Mr. President, I wrote last week to National Security Adviser Sandy Berger and Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen proposing the use of the Commando Solo aircraft under the circumstances we confront in Bosnia. I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. LEVIN. I believe that, until the Bosnian people, particularly the

Bosnian Serbs, are able to receive television and radio broadcasts that depict the true reasons for their isolation and poor standing in the international community, it is less likely that meaningful progress will be made in the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton accords.

Mr. President, the European Stars and Stripes reported last week that many Bosnian Serbs have refused to accept copies of a free publication called the Herald of Peace that is handed out throughout Bosnia by SFOR. I am sure that they are reluctant to be seen accepting this publication for fear that they will be reported to Karadzic and his henchmen. The beauty of Commando Solo is that its radio and television broadcasts will go into the homes of the Bosnian Serbs where they can receive it away from prying eyes. Karadzic can't stop the broadcasts—they override his transmissions. It is time to put this valuable tool to work for peace in Bosnia and for the security of our forces.

EXHIBIT 1

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 1997.

Mr. SAMUEL R. BERGER,
Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs, National Security Council, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. BERGER: I am writing in connection with the lack of progress in implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton peace accords, particularly the problem of war criminals. I am deeply disturbed about the failure of the Bosnian parties, particularly the Republika Srpska, to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law as required by Article IX of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Recent press reports regarding the influence of former Bosnian Serb president and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic, establish that his and his party's control of all Bosnian Serb media, particularly Bosnian television, consistently presents a distorted picture as to the cause of the Republic's isolation and poverty.

Until the Bosnian people, particularly the Bosnian Serbs, are able to receive television broadcasts that depict the true reasons for their isolation and poor standing in the international community, it is doubtful that any meaningful progress will be made in the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton accords.

I am concerned that the local media's distorted reporting is inflaming the situation in Republika Srpska and encouraging the Bosnian Serbs to take reprisal action against personnel of the Stabilization Force (SFOR), the International Police Task Force (IPTF), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It seems to me that those actions and other less dramatic, but improper, actions by the Bosnian Serbs and their political leadership are impeding the ability of the SFOR Commander to protect the SFOR and to carry out its responsibilities under the accords.

Paragraph 5 of Article VI of the Agreement on the Military Aspects of the Peace Settlement gives the SFOR Commander the authority to do all that he judges necessary and proper to protect the SFOR and to carry out its responsibilities. I believe that it would be appropriate for the SFOR Com-

mander to determine that the presentation of distorted reports about SFOR, the inflaming of emotions, and the encouragement of reprisal action by the Bosnian Serb media controlled by Karadzic and the ruling Serb Democratic Party, are impeding his ability to protect SFOR and to carry out SFOR's responsibilities.

The U.S. military has the capability through the EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft to broadcast television and radio messages to the Bosnian people. I strongly recommend that, once the SFOR Commander makes the above determination, he be authorized to utilize Commando Solo to conduct television and radio broadcasts in Republika Srpska to inform the Bosnian Serbs of the true facts.

It may also be necessary to take similar action with respect to the other Bosnian parties. I fear that without such action war criminals will not be brought to justice, reconciliation will not take place, and the human and material investment of the United States and its allies will have been in vain.

I am sending a similar letter to the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely,

CARL LEVIN,
Ranking Minority Member.

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 1997.

Hon. WILLIAM S. COHEN,
Secretary of Defense,
The Pentagon, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am writing in connection with the lack of progress in implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton peace accords, particularly the problem of war criminals. I am deeply disturbed about the failure of the Bosnian parties, particularly the Republika Srpska, to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law as required by Article IX of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Sincerely,

CARL LEVIN,
Ranking Minority Member.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 29, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,373,127,138,499.91. (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-three billion, one hundred twenty-seven million, one hundred thirty-eight thousand, four hundred ninety-nine dollars and ninety-one cents)

One year ago, July 29, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,182,455,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred eighty-two billion, four hundred fifty-five million)

Five years ago, July 29, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,995,312,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred ninety-five billion, three hundred twelve million)

Ten years ago, July 29, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,298,353,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred ninety-eight billion, three hundred fifty-three million)

Fifteen years ago, July 29, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,089,771,000,000 (One trillion, eighty-nine billion, seven hundred seventy-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,283,356,138,499.91 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-three billion, three hundred fifty-six million, one hundred thirty-eight thousand, four hundred ninety-nine dollars and ninety-one cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION
FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 25

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending July 25, the U.S. imported 8,138,000 barrels of oil each day, 585,000 barrels more than the 7,553,000 imported each day during the same week 1 year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 56.3 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward