

stood at \$5,372,436,799,991.80. (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-two billion, four hundred thirty-six million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-one dollars and eighty cents)

One year ago, July 30, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,183,983,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred eighty-three billion, nine hundred eighty-three million)

Five years ago, July 30, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,999,118,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred ninety-nine billion, one hundred eighteen million)

Ten years ago, July 30, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,304,965,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred four billion, nine hundred sixty-five million)

Fifteen years ago, July 30, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,089,616,000,000 (One trillion, eighty-nine billion, six hundred sixteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,282,820,799,991.80 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-two billion, eight hundred twenty million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-one dollars and eighty cents) during the past 15 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SGT. GARY HURT ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I would like to encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sgt. Gary Hurt as he retires on August 31, 1997, from 28 years of service to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I add my personal appreciation and best wishes to those of Gary's many friends and colleagues.

There are few careers more noble than those spent in public service. Gary's 18 years in the Governor's Security Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol have meant a great deal to the people he has served. I add a special word of thanks to Gary for his dedicated service to me during my two terms as Governor of Missouri.

During my tenure as Governor, Gary and I traveled from one end of the State to the other, as well as around the country. Gary always represented the State of Missouri and the Missouri Highway Patrol with dignity, integrity, and professionalism. His commitment to detail put me at ease regardless of travel and event circumstances. I am grateful to Gary and I would like to publicly thank him for the outstanding service he graciously provided my family and me while I served as Governor of Missouri.

I wish Gary and his wife, Carol, much happiness as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May God richly bless them both.

CONCERN ABOUT RELAXATION OF CROSS-OWNERSHIP RULES

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, the balanced budget agreement passed by the Senate today was an extraordinary

and historical accomplishment. The American people can be proud that Congress took bipartisan action to provide not only the first balanced budget in a generation but also tax relief to working families, health care for uninsured children, financial relief for those seeking a college education and the promise of long-term solvency for Medicare.

In another historic yet less worthy act, the conferees quietly included in the bill a provision to, for the first time, relax the cross-ownership rules that prevent television stations or newspapers from owning a television station within the same city. The FCC has rightly enacted and enforced cross-ownership prohibitions for 50 years to ensure diversity of opinion and views on our local airwaves.

But the provision in the reconciliation bill would allow newspaper owners and broadcasters to bid on licenses within the same market during the 2002 auction of analog broadcast signals in markets with populations greater than 400,000. These signals will be made available as the current analog stations convert to digital transmission.

This action could have a seriously detrimental effect on the diversity of the current mosaic of broadcast entities. Broadcast television remains the most prolific form of local broadcast news and it is critical that this diversity is continued. Indeed, I am deeply concerned by the effect that this provision could have on the FCC's current review of cross-ownership rules.

Congress directed the FCC to review cross-ownership rules in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the results of this review are pending. While I believe Congress should revisit the reconciliation relaxation provision on its own merits and free from the rush toward passage of the agreement, it is also critical that the FCC, during its own review of cross-ownership, does not interpret passage of this provision as unobjectionable Congressional support for repeal or relaxation of cross-ownership rules.

Indeed, it is important to note that this provision is intended to provide cross-ownership only when there is a doubling of broadcast outlets within a particular market and only in markets of populations greater than 400,000. If Congress had wanted to take further action, it would have done so and therefore, the FCC should not.

Our broadcast spectrum is one of our Nation's most valuable assets and one of the most powerful yet limited resource for the dissemination of ideas and free expression. It is critical that Congress work to protect rather than dilute this resource and I will fight for the integrity of our airwaves as Congress continues to address these issues.

TERRORIST BOMBING IN JERUSALEM

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with the distin-

guished chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and many others, as an original cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 46.

Yesterday two suicide terrorist bombers blew themselves up in the Mahane Yehuda open-air marketplace in the center of Jerusalem. These bombs were clearly timed to do the maximum possible damage. They exploded seconds apart at about 1 p.m. local time, at the height of the lunch-time shopping hour. Initial reports indicate that at least 18 people were killed and over 100 were injured.

This was a despicable, bloodthirsty act, which all of us stand and condemn in one voice. It is not yet known exactly who perpetrated the bombing, but it bears great similarity to attacks conducted in the past by the Palestinian extremist groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Whoever bears guilt for this terrible crime is beneath contempt.

We join Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Weizman, and the Israeli people in mourning those who were murdered yesterday, and we offer our deepest condolences to their families. To the wounded, we offer our prayers and hopes for their full recovery.

Sadly, Israelis have become all too familiar with having their daily routines shattered by the sudden bloodshed and carnage of bombings in seemingly ordinary places—on a bus, in a marketplace, in park or a cafe. On top of all the other tragic aspects of these bombings, the way Israelis are forced to live with the knowledge that their world could be blown apart at any instant is a peculiar kind of torture.

President Clinton was exactly right when he said yesterday morning that this bomb was aimed not only at innocent Israeli civilians, but also at all those in the Middle East who genuinely desire peace. And I fear that this bombing, because of its timing and location, could be as damaging to prospects for peace as any that we have seen.

The timing could hardly have been worse. The President's Special Middle East Coordinator, Dennis Ross, was about to travel to Israel to try to breathe new life into the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which have been suspended for many months, but which were just beginning to show signs of resuming. In fact, there is good reason to believe that this attack was timed specifically to disrupt Mr. Ross's trip and the impending resumption of the peace talks. Now it may be weeks or months before these talks can resume and be productive. For the extremists, the greatest danger is that the talks could make progress, and they are obviously willing to do anything to prevent it.

This bombing also has ramifications for our work. On August 12, the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act will expire. This act provided the legislative framework for U.S. involvement in the peace process by giving the President the authority to provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority, allow the

PLO to operate an office in Washington, and waive other restrictions on United States-Palestinian contacts, if he certifies that the Palestinian Authority is fulfilling its commitments.

I had hoped that the House and Senate leadership would work with those of us who care deeply about this issue to pass a short-term extension of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, so that it does not expire while the Congress is in recess next month. There are many Members, myself included, who believe that the act needs to be reworked to establish a tougher standard of compliance, before it is extended for the long term. But a short-term extension of 60 or 90 days would give us the opportunity to negotiate a meaningful new version of the law, without this important legislation lapsing for a matter of weeks, or even months.

Now, under these circumstances, I do not think it will be possible to pass to a short-term extension in the short time remaining before the August recess. I hope that we will be able to negotiate an appropriate replacement for the current Middle East Peace Facilitation Act shortly after the recess in September.

The location of this bombing also makes it deeply resonant. The Mahane Yehuda marketplace is in the heart of downtown Jerusalem. It is a place where every Israeli has spent time, and many Jerusalemites visit or pass through it daily. It will be difficult to recover from an attack in such a central and symbolic place, and the Israeli Government will find it difficult to engage in peace talks while this memory is fresh.

What will it take to recover from this bombing? Before anything else can take place, it will take action by the Palestinian Authority. First and foremost, the Palestinian Authority should resume security cooperation with the Israeli government to the full extent that they had cooperated before. At one time, in 1995 and part of 1996, Israeli and Palestinian security cooperation reached unprecedented levels. This cooperation reflected a mutual understanding in the shared stake both sides had in preventing acts of terrorism by extremists bent on destroying the peace process.

That shared stake still exists today, but the Palestinian leadership must recognize it and act upon it. Even if the Palestinians are angered by some Israeli actions, that does not change the mutual interest they have in preventing terrorism. Because if anything will stop the peace process from achieving the aspirations of both Palestinians and Israelis, terrorism will.

Second, the Palestinian Authority must reinvigorate its efforts to root out terrorist groups in the areas under its control. This effort has been spotty, at best, and Palestinian officials, including Chairman Arafat, have been rightly criticized for giving less than clear signals that terrorism will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

This is not acceptable. An unequivocal red light against terrorism and the operations of terrorist groups—a no-tolerance policy—is the only thing that is acceptable.

Chairman Arafat called Prime Minister Netanyahu shortly after the bombing to condemn the attack, which is the right thing for him to have done. But he must not and cannot stop there. He should condemn publicly in the strongest possible language—in English and Arabic—these bombings and all other acts of terrorism. He should instruct his security forces to dismantle the infrastructure of the terrorist groups, arresting those who are complicit in the conduct of terrorist attacks. He should use his bully pulpit to insist that Palestinian society rejects the elements who believe their aspirations—or martyrdom—can be attained by killing Israelis. If he fails to take these steps, there can be no peace process, and Palestinian aspirations will never be realized.

Finally, when the security situation is more stabilized, both sides must resume peace talks with a view toward meeting only their own needs, but the needs of the other side as well. If these talks are seen in purely zero-sum terms, they will go nowhere. Both sides must make their demands—on Israel's further redeployments in the West Bank, and on final status issues like Jerusalem, settlements, refugees, and sovereignty—with the understanding that if the other side has no stake in the process, there will be no final status agreement that brings about a lasting peace.

Clearly the peace process cannot coexist with terrorism. But despite yesterday's tragic and criminal bombing, the logic of this peace process, and the fundamental need for peace between Israelis and Palestinians has not changed. To give up on this effort would condemn future generations of Israelis to controlling a hostile population of over 2 million, to the detriment of Israel's long-term security and well-being. It would also bury Palestinian dreams of self-determination.

To turn away now from the search for peace would be to reward the extremists for their acts of violence and terrorism. It would be a victory for the barbaric suicide bombers of Mahane Yehuda. It would say to them: "You were right. You win. There cannot and shall not be peace between Israelis and Palestinians."

Neither Israelis nor Palestinians—nor the United States—can afford for that to happen.

ROSA PARKS TRAGEDY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my thanks to a number of organizations and individuals who gave of themselves at a crucial time for the people of Michigan. These people and organizations extended aid to legendary Michigan civil rights leader Rosa Parks and to her organiza-

tion, the Detroit-based Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. Mrs. Parks and her organization are both Michigan and national treasures. They suffered a great tragedy over the past few days, and I am greatly heartened that so many came forward to help in the aftermath.

Mr. President, each year the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute sponsors a historical tour tracing the route of the Underground Railroad. On Wednesday, July 30, approximately 30 young men and women on this tour, along with their chaperons, were traveling on Interstate 95, south of Petersburg, VA, when their bus ran off the highway, slid down an embankment and came to a rest on its side in the Nottoway River.

Many of those on board sustained serious injuries, and one chaperon, Adisa Foluke, whom Mrs. Parks has said she considers her grandson, was killed. One of the young women, Tiandra Gunn, remains in a coma. A trip that had begun with so much promise, had in an instant become a nightmare. Mrs. Parks and her associates from the Institute immediately flew to Virginia to be with the youths and their families during this difficult time.

Rarely in such dire circumstances could one find reason to be heartened. However, the immediate and overwhelming response from the Detroit-area business community was to ask how they could help. Chrysler Corp. offered the use of a private jet to return Mrs. Parks and her associates from Richmond, VA, to Detroit. Northwest Airlines provided free air travel to the students stranded so far away from home, and also arranged to transport the body of the deceased home to Michigan.

Examples of compassionate generosity weren't limited solely to Michigan businesses. The American Red Cross paid for the group's lodging for 2 nights and secured ground transportation. The local Shoney's restaurant in Petersburg, VA donated free meals. Individual volunteers, both in Michigan and Virginia, offered their help to the young men and women and their families.

The city of Detroit, and one of its most cherished citizens, experienced great loss this week. However, I believe we have also experienced hope. At a time when little was expected, a great deal was delivered. No one has ever given more of themselves to their community than Rosa Parks. I was proud to see so many who have benefited from her example of selfless leadership respond in kind.

Mr. President, this has been a story of severe tragedy. But it has also been a story of caring, of friends and neighbors galvanized by a desire to help those in need. I extend my condolences to Mrs. Parks and to the rest of Adisa Foluke's family. I'm sure all of our prayers go out to Tiandra Gunn, the rest of the injured, and their families. I also extend my thanks, on behalf of