

THE TRAGIC BOMBING AT MAHANE YEHUDA MARKET

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, yesterday in Jerusalem, the Mahane Yehuda market was ripped apart by two suicide bombs that detonated only seconds apart. At least 15 people are dead and another 170 are estimated to be injured as a result of this cowardly act. I rise today to strongly condemn the bombings, and to extend my deepest sympathies to the people of Israel.

The images we have seen on the news have been heartbreaking. The bombs, packed with nails and screws, turned a busy produce market into a horrifying scene of bloodshed and destruction. There is simply no justification for this indiscriminate killing of innocent people.

It has been reported that Issadin Kassam, a military wing of Hamas, has claimed responsibility for the bombing. This would not be the first time Hamas has terrorized the people of Israel and shown itself to be the strongest enemy of peace in the region.

Mr. President, this small majority of extremists cannot be allowed to block the peace that so many people desperately desire. Everyone affiliated with the peace process must now redouble their efforts to stabilize this region that has suffered so long.

Unfortunately, the peace process cannot move forward unless the Palestinian Authority keeps its promise to cooperate fully with Israeli efforts to combat terrorism. I am deeply saddened to report that to date, Palestinian efforts have been inadequate. Only by working together in good faith can terrorism be vanquished from the Middle East.

Once again, I express my sincerest condolences to the Israeli people for their latest sacrifice in the quest for peace.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD LESHER, U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. BURNS. I would like to pay tribute to a man who has given the American business community and millions of hard-working Americans over 2 decades of dedicated service. Dr. Richard Leshner, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will be retiring in mid-August of this year. Dr. Leshner has successfully steered the world's largest business federation during this era of global competition.

After nearly a quarter of a century with Dr. Leshner at the helm, the chamber's membership has grown to over 215,000 business members, 3,000 State and local chambers of commerce and over 1,200 trade and professional associations. In addition to the national membership, the U.S. chamber works closely with international members from over 60 countries.

Dr. Leshner has worked tirelessly to improve the chamber and to continually champion the goals of the free

enterprise system. In order to give his members a stronger voice in Congress, Dr. Leshner has established the Grassroots Action Information Network, or GAIN. He has overseen the creation of the National Chamber Litigation Center in 1977, the only public policy law firm that represents American business interests before regulatory agencies and the courts.

Dr. Leshner has been a constant source of inspiration and dedication in Washington, across the Nation, and throughout the world. His innovative ideas, superb leadership and knowledge of issues have made the U.S. Chamber of Commerce the Nation's leading business advocacy group. Dr. Leshner, thanks for your unfailing commitment to Americans and American business throughout your tenure. I wish you the very best in your retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PETER JENNISON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a very special Vermont. Peter Jennison has devoted much of his life to documenting our wonderful State.

Among his many accomplishments, Peter has authored "Vermont: An Explorer's Guide," "Roadside History of Vermont," numerous Vermont magazine articles and reviews, and also "Vermont on \$500 A Day (More Or Less)"—and for those of you who are lucky enough to have visited Vermont you understand the tongue-in-cheek title of the last book.

His skill and talent for writing and history earned him the Vermont Book Publishers Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996. As someone who has enjoyed many of his books and magazine articles, I know that this award is well deserved.

Peter is a longtime special friend of mine as is his wife Jane and I wanted the Senate to know about them.

The Rutland Herald recently ran an excellent piece on Peter Jennison. I ask unanimous consent that the article appear immediately following my statement.

[From the Rutland Daily Herald, July 10, 1997]

A "BORN AGAIN VERMONT" REFLECTS ON A LIFE SPENT AMONG BOOKS

(By Melissa MacKenzie)

At 75 nothing shocks Peter S. Jennison except the prices of books and hotels.

"I can remember when a suite at the Plaza cost \$10 a day," he said with a chuckle on the morning of his big birthday, July 2 was celebrated quietly, followed by a family gathering at the weekend. Jane Jennison, his wife of 51 years, was cheerful but bedridden with emphysema, knee surgery and two hip replacements. Otherwise life appeared to be going tolerably well in the 1840 brick cottage on the hill above the Taftsville General Store.

Jennison, a "born again" Vermonter, who grew up in Swanton and then lived many years in New York only to return home again, is probably best known to the average reader as one of the authors of "Vermont: An Explorer's Guide" and the popular "Roadside History of Vermont."

Others may recognize him as the dry, accurate and often humorous reviewer of restaurants and inns for Vermont Magazine. Or you may have seen his books in libraries, including two novels set in Vermont, "The Governor," written in 1964, and "The Mimosa Smokers," and a semi-serious guidebook called "Vermont on \$500 A Day (More or Less)." Two of his other books, "History of Woodstock, 1890-1983," and "Frederick Billings," written with Jane Curtis and Frank Lieberman, reflect his historian side and his lifelong interest in Vermont history.

An affable observant man known for his quiet wit, Jennison and his wife, Jane, founded Countryman Press, (now a part of the giant W.W. Norton Publishing Company), in Woodstock in 1973. Or re-founded, you might say. The Jennisons revived the imprint, dormant since the 1930s, which had in the past published such greats as Stephen Vincent Benet and Edgar Lee Masters, and launched their own version, including a new, colophon designed by Vermont artist Sabra Field.

Success came quickly, although it was hard work. Peter and Jane worked from their kitchen table to produce Countryman's first book, a guidebook called "Wonderful Woodstock," and only three years later published its first bestseller, "Backyard Livestock," by Steven Thomas, a book that is still selling well today. By this time several veteran editors and marketing people had joined the little enterprise, among them, the late Keith Jennison, Peter's brother, author of the humorous "Yup * * * Nope and Other Vermont Dialogues," and three men who would eventually run the company, Louis Kannenstine, Christopher Lloyd and Carl Taylor.

The idea was to pay careful attention to the selection of books, be willing to take a chance on a writer; and to take pride in the way their books were designed. Said Jennison at the time, "Working this way is * * * a much more personal kind of publishing that is possible elsewhere in the conglomerate scene." It was a philosophy which saw little Countryman become a David among the Goliaths.

"Countryman was like a woodstove. You had to keep adding logs. Bit by bit we grew beyond our expectations. We didn't have a master plan, it just happened. The more books, the more momentum," Jennison said.

The company operated from the Jennisons' home for the first four years. Editing, billing and shipping continued to get done at the kitchen table. Books were ferried to bookstores in the back of a Toyota pickup truck. Next, Countryman moved down the hill near the Taftsville General Store, where it stayed until 1981 when it relocated to Woodstock and constructed its own building on Route 4. Countryman Press operated there until 1994. After the sale to W.W. Norton, the staff relocated to Mt. Tom. The building is presently for sale for \$495,000.

Selling to a big New York City publisher was "an emotional wrench, like selling the family farm, but I realized we had, so to speak, survived the childhood and the adolescence of the company, and now we had grown up and got married," said Jennison philosophically.

"For a small publisher it was getting more and more complicated and expensive to do business. The big wholesalers and the chains are now dictating the rules of the game," he added.

"Publishing has gotten to be part of the entertainment industry. More people are buying more books, but because of the star system that dominates the industry, a lot of new writers are being deprived of an audience. There are still a lot of smaller presses, but they don't have access to the major markets," Jennison said.

Another factor is the reliance of the big players on computers and the industry's fixation on the bottom line.

"Unfortunately the buyers at Barnes and Noble and at Ingram (the largest book distribution company in the U.S.) are ruled by their computer records; how well an author sold before, what type of book sold before, etc. I call it the Bill Gates-is-God mentality," he said.

Jennison, however, remains hopeful, "I am optimistic enough to think there will always be a large number of people who would rather curl up with a book than a computer game. The format of the book will be with us for a long time. It'll go on," he said.

In 1996 the Vermont Book Publishers Association awarded Jennison a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to publishing.

A sixth-generation Vermonter, born on a dairy farm in Swanton, north of St. Albans, Jennison attended a one room school until his parents packed him off to Philips Academy, Andover. Next came Middlebury College, interrupted in his junior year by World War II. Jennison served three years with the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA, as a code and ciphers specialist, decoding messages from U.S. agents behind the lines in Germany, France and Norway. Returning to Middlebury, he graduated with a degree in American literature, married Jane, and began what was to become a lifetime spent with books.

Jennison worked first for "Publishers Weekly" as a reviews editor and feature writer, and then went on to become Assistant Director of the American Book Publishers Council. In the 1960s, he served on the National Book Committee, a non-profit citizens group promoting books and libraries, similar to the Vermont Center for the Book, but on a national scale. Under the auspices of the Ford Foundation he also worked with fledgling publishing companies in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as well as serving on the panel for the National Book Awards.

"The National Book Awards weren't as high profile in the sixties. We got a lot of local publicity, though, outside of New York. Now, it's more like the Academy Awards," said Jennison.

The Jennisons returned to Vermont in 1971. I'd had enough of New York and I was tired of being held hostage by the New Haven Railroad," recalled Jennison, referring to his years as a commuter from suburban Westport, Conn.

Christina Tree, co-author of "Vermont: An Explorer's Guide," remembers the story a little differently. "The way I heard it, Peter came home one night after a hard day in the city, wound up like a clock, and accidentally walked straight off the patio into the family swimming pool, seersucker suit, briefcase and all. He got out, sputtering, and yelled, "That does it. Jane, we're going back to Vermont."

Although he is now officially retired, Jennison continues to write for "Vermont Magazine" and will work again with Tree on the next edition of "Vermont: An Explorer's Guide."

Countryman Press's "The Explorer's Guide series" started in 1979. The first book was about Massachusetts, the home state of Tree, a young travel writer at the Boston Globe. Said Tree from her home in Cambridge, "Peter hired me to write the series. I wrote one on Massachusetts and one on Maine. But the year I was to begin the one on Vermont, I had some family difficulties, and Peter so-authored to help me out."

The partnership was such a success the two have continued co-writing the book ever since.

"We divided up the state," said Jennison. "Now, when it's time for a new edition, we

switch sections and re-visit old places and add new ones."

The guidebook is published every two years and has garnered much praise for its accuracy and attention to historical detail. The most recent edition came out in May, which means that come the summer of 1998, Jennison and Tree will again switch their sections and start trekking for the 1999 edition. Working off the previous edition on their computers, the pair will meticulously re-check each entry, changing phone numbers and prices where necessary adding names or dropping them.

Said Christina Tree, "The depth of Peter's knowledge of Vermont is huge. He's seen tremendous changes in the state, and he's got an interesting perspective, returning to Vermont at the time he did, after being away for so long. He personifies a certain kind of aristocratic Vermonter, who's very sophisticated and also very active and involved. He's low-key and witty and generous. And of course he's a fabulous writer. Somebody ought to do an oral biography of him."

CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS ON H.R. 2015 AND H.R. 2014, THE BALANCED BUDGET AND TAXPAYER RELIEF ACTS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I congratulate our leader, Senator DOMENICI, Senator ROTH, our colleagues in the House, our colleagues in the other party, and all those who worked so diligently to hammer out the details of these agreements. I admit that I was somewhat skeptical that the Congress and the Clinton administration could come to an agreement on these two very important bills. While I have some concerns about certain aspects of these measures, I am pleased to be able to support the legislation.

These two bills will put our Nation back on the road to Federal responsibility. The Balanced Budget Act will reduce Federal spending by \$270 billion over the next 5 years, eliminating our annual deficits and resulting in a balanced budget by the year 2002. At the same time, we are providing \$96 billion in much-needed tax relief over the next 5 years.

Mr. President, our Founding Fathers recognized the basic principle that the Federal Government must not spend beyond its means. Thomas Jefferson said, "We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves." Unfortunately, we have strayed far from Mr. Jefferson's wise advice.

Today, our Nation is burdened with a national debt in excess of \$5.3 trillion—or about \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. Our debt is still growing by about \$4,500 per second—about the same amount it would cost to send three people to a community college.

Although Congress has talked endlessly about balancing the budget, the budget has not been balanced since 1969. We—the Congress and the President—have ignored our responsibility to put our fiscal house in order, choosing instead to leave future generations of Americans with an overwhelming legacy of debt.

Because Federal spending has been out of control, the American people have been saddled with an unconscionable tax burden. In 1960, Americans paid approximately one dollar in taxes for every \$50 they earned. Today, one out of every three dollars goes to the tax man. These confiscatory tax policies are blatantly unfair to those who work hard to provide for their families.

The Balanced Budget Act reduces Medicare and Medicaid spending without reducing benefits, provides \$24 billion for children's health initiatives, and mandates savings in other Federal programs. It also provides for effective enforcement of the discretionary spending limitations necessary to balance the budget by 2002.

The Taxpayer Relief Act will ease the unconscionable burden on American taxpayers by reducing estate and capital gains taxes, providing a \$500 tax credit for children, and providing more flexibility in Individual Retirement Accounts. Small businesses will gain tax relief by restoring the deductibility of home office expenses and self-employed health insurance costs. These and other provisions will allow Americans to keep more of the their hard-earned dollars, rather than turning them over to pay for a bloated Federal bureaucracy.

The American people have waited a long time for deficit reduction and tax relief. With this legislation, we are showing the American people that we take our duties seriously, and I am pleased to support these bills.

Mr. President, there are several matters contained in these bills that I would like to discuss at greater length, some good and some not so good.

AMTRAK TAX CREDIT

Mr. President, I wish to remark on the conference agreement provision giving \$4.3 billion to Amtrak under the guise of so-called "tax relief." Given that Amtrak is exempt from most Federal tax burdens, this scheme represents the greatest train robbery since the James Brothers retired.

How we can give a corporate tax refund to a quasi-governmental corporation that has NEVER paid Federal corporate income taxes defies imagination. It's too bad the American taxpayers aren't so favorably treated. I think every taxpayer would like the chance to receive a tax refund they aren't legally owed. Of all the charades I have seen over the years, this Amtrak "special" tax provision takes the cake.

I want the public to be aware, this bill contains \$2.3 billion for Amtrak to be doled out over two years not subject to appropriation or congressional oversight. This is the same outfit that has drained \$20 billion from the Federal Treasury to serve a small percentage of commuters in the northeast.

This windfall would be accomplished through a far fetched tax scheme that