

fully and completely. As they do, I believe they will ensure that the decision made by the Secretary of State was the right one.

So for these reasons, I would like to commend once again the Secretary of State. I would like to commend the Lebanese Government and the people of Lebanon. I would like to urge our colleagues to keep their eye on Lebanon and to look for other ways by which we can build a strong relationship.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PERMITTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES FULL ACCESS TO THE SENATE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I take the floor tonight to discuss a resolution that I have introduced with Senator WARNER to permit individuals with disabilities full access to the floor of the U.S. Senate. I believe that this resolution will be approved later tonight and has been reviewed by both the majority and the minority. I anticipate that it will be incorporated into the final business of the U.S. Senate during the wrap-up session before the session formally concludes.

Mr. President, this resolution that I offer tonight will close the book on discrimination against individuals with disabilities on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Earlier this year, after a visually impaired professional on my staff was barred from bringing her guide dog onto the floor, the Senate adopted a resolution providing for temporary case-by-case entry to the floor for those professionals with disabilities. This was a good step—an important step. But it still left some room for discrimination.

The resolution that will be considered by the Senate tonight will ensure that as a matter of formal Senate rule there is no discrimination permitted against individuals with disabilities. There will no longer be a double standard in the U.S. Senate. Senate staffers with disabilities who have the privilege of the Senate floor will be permitted to bring onto the Senate floor supporting aids and services such as canes, service dogs, interpreters, or assistive devices.

This is an important day for the Senate, for people with disabilities, and for our whole country because it makes clear that the U.S. Congress ought to follow the laws that apply to everyone else in our country.

I especially want, Mr. President, to recognize the hard work of the chairman of the Rules Committee, Senator JOHN WARNER, in moving this resolution forward. As every Member of this body knows, he has an enormous workload. He was extremely gracious to me in working to develop this resolution and gain bipartisan support for it.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to the senior Senator from the

State of West Virginia, Senator BYRD, whose expert knowledge of the Senate rules was of enormous benefit in drafting this new resolution.

As a relatively new Senator, I have great esteem for the constant care which Senator BYRD uses to guard the traditions and prerogatives of this body. I am of the view that every U.S. Senator owes a debt of gratitude to the Senator from West Virginia for his constant vigilance with respect to ensuring the rights of all on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, this is an important resolution. It is justice long overdue. Earlier this year, a congressional fellow in my office was denied access to the Senate floor because she uses a guide dog. That guide dog is a working dog; a guide dog that serves as the eyes for a visually impaired person. The people of this country were offended, and they sent a message that this type of discrimination is unacceptable to them.

My office, like many others in the U.S. Senate, were inundated with calls, mail, and e-mail.

There was one letter I received that recounted a bit of history that I would like to briefly share.

The letter that was sent to me told a story about the Senate in the 1930s when there were some Members who disapproved of a guide dog coming onto the Senate floor. The individual then who needed the assistance of the guide dog was Senator Schall of Minnesota. The letter described the Senator's first entry into the Chamber with his guide dog and how the other Senators rose, one by one, and then in large numbers applauded him. The Senate galleries followed suit until the whole Senate was just one gigantic standing ovation.

The letter goes on to say that Senator Schall stopped by his seat, turned and listened to the ovation from all around him and was touched as the ovation continued and continued. Waving to the crowd, the Senator took his seat and commanded his guide dog, Lux, to lie down. The guide dog then curled up under the Senator's desk, tucking his body so it would not be in the way of any Senator who passed by. The May 22, 1933, issue of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD documents how strongly the American public reacted to the news of the death of Senator Schall's guide dog. The guide dog died after being separated a few days from the Senator when he thought it would be inappropriate to take the dog with him to attend the funeral of another Senator. Senator Schall said then:

Mr. President, since the death of my good dog, Lux, last March, the mails of this and other countries have brought me hundreds of letters of regret. So many expressions of interest have gladdened and surprised me.

It seems to me that the action that the Senate will take shortly makes it clear that we have not forgotten how important it is to stand for the principle of equal justice in this Chamber. What we do each day is set an example,

and here particularly an important example, because as a result of the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Congressional Accountability Act, and other statutes, we make clear that the laws of the United States are going to apply in this Chamber.

As a result of this resolution, and particularly the extremely helpful work that Senator WARNER and Senator BYRD have done, it is going to be possible to have a formal Senate rule that ensures that discrimination against individuals with disabilities is not going to be tolerated on this floor.

This rule takes the generally accepted definition of an individual with a disability, defined as one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual, and says it is not possible to discriminate against that individual in this Chamber.

In closing, Mr. President, I want to observe that there are 49 million Americans with a disabilities. Under the law, they are guaranteed the same rights as all other Americans in terms of access to jobs, insurance, transportation, and telecommunications technology. They are not guaranteed special treatment. They are guaranteed just equal access. That is what this resolution is all about, equal access.

Finally, Mr. President, many lessons have been learned from this experience. I believe that the Senate and our country are more aware and sensitive to the many issues facing individuals with disabilities. We have seen that rules can and should be updated to meet the changing needs of our society. I believe that the Senate and our country as a whole are better off as a result of the consideration of this resolution and the strong bipartisan support that has developed here and in our country.

Mr. President, I think this is an important day for the Senate, a good day for the Senate, because it was a day which ensures that our country is a bit more fair, a bit more sensitive to the needs of those with disabilities. I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have helped me so much, particularly Senators WARNER and BYRD.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators BYRD, REID, KERRY, CHAFEE, AKAKA, KENNEDY, MURRAY, BINGAMAN, MURKOWSKI, FEINGOLD, HATCH, DURBIN, and HARKIN be added as cosponsors.

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

CONDEMNATION OF JERUSALEM BOMBING

Mr. REED. Mr. President, yesterday, while thousands of innocent men, women and children shopped in Mahane Yehuda market in Jerusalem, the peace of that sunny afternoon was shattered when two bombs filled with screws and nails detonated. Fifteen people were killed, close to 200 persons

were injured. Later that day, the Israeli Cabinet voted to break off all contact with the Palestinian Authority, jeopardizing hopes that had soared just days ago when Israelis and Palestinians had agreed to resume peace talks for the first time since March.

I have always been a strong supporter of the peace process, and there is no doubt in anyone's mind that this is a complicated issue and peace will only be secured after prolonged negotiations and compromises on both sides. No one expects it to be easy.

However, the first step simply must be to end the violence. Terrorist acts such as yesterday's bombing simply cannot be tolerated. There is no reason, no excuse, no possible justification for killing innocent civilians shopping in a street market. It is an act of terrorism, nothing more, nothing less.

Peace cannot be secured until the citizens of the Middle East are certain that they are safe. They will not feel safe until they trust each other, and they will not trust each other until their actions match their words and deeds. Yasser Arafat said he condemns these terrorists. He said it is an act against the peace process. Yet, it is more than likely that a known terrorist group detonated those bombs in the market. These terrorist groups have never had to account for their violent deeds.

The Palestinian Authority must match its words of condemnation with acts. It must take tangible steps to increase security activity and security cooperation. It must be committed to bringing those who are responsible for this unconscionable act of terrorism to justice. Only when it is clear that these acts of terrorism will no longer be tolerated will they cease. Only when they cease can we take another step down that very long road to peace.

I extend my condolences to the families of those who were killed. It is my sincere hope it is the last time that the people of Israel and the people of Palestine will endure the suffering and fear that terrorist acts bring.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from Illinois.

RESULTS OF BALANCING THE BUDGET

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, for the first time since 1969, Congress has balanced the budget. This is not just a victory for Congress. This is a victory for the American people.

I am reminded of a term that is used in science known as "vector addition." Simply stated, it says that you subtract forces working against one another and you add forces working with one another.

While I am not here to talk about science or math, my point is that we diminish our collective energy when we

work against each other, but we expand our ability to help everyone when we work together. When we set aside our differences, we are stronger as a Nation and stronger as a people. By working together we move forward, and that means that everybody wins.

Mr. President, the American people are winners today because of the spirit of cooperation that went into the tax relief and spending reduction bills, a credit to the leadership of President Clinton, the leadership of the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee, Senator ROTH and Senator MOYNIHAN, and the leadership of the Budget Committee chairman, Senator DOMENICI, and the ranking Democrat, Senator LAUTENBERG.

Mr. President, this is people-oriented legislation, and I am pleased to be able to say that it is bipartisan legislation that invests in our children and in their futures. It achieves fiscal responsibility while at the same time it is socially fair. It improves health for children and health care for the elderly. It takes at least a small step toward rebuilding our Nation's crumbling schools and a much larger step toward expanding opportunities for our children to attend college.

Most importantly of all, we are providing real tax relief for American families. For the first years of the new century we will see in this country a balanced budget again for the first time in a generation.

This legislative victory did not come without sacrifice. The foundation for today's achievement was had in 1993 when Congress, by the narrowest of margins, enacted the highly successful 1993 deficit reduction legislation that has already brought down the Federal deficit from over \$280 billion to about \$65 billion, or perhaps even lower, this year. Critics argued at the time that the bill would plunge our country into a recession, that it would stoke inflation, and that it would throw hundreds of thousands of people out of work. A few of our senatorial colleagues who supported the bill later lost their elections because of that support. Those Members of Congress chose statesmanship over politics, and today I think it is important to pay tribute to their foresight.

The legislation that we passed this afternoon builds on what we achieved in 1993. It nonetheless represents an enormous accomplishment, one in which every American can take justifiable pride. The United States is once again leading the way to get its fiscal house in order while investing in families, children and in students and in economic growth. By contrast, in Europe, deficits in many countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product are triple what ours is—and even higher—and they have no solution in sight. Again, I believe that we have shown the way to achieve fiscal responsibility and social fairness to the world.

As a Member of the Senate Finance Committee, I am pleased that this bill

reflects a number of my own particular priorities. First, it helps young college graduates to repay their student loans by making the interest deductible once again. We all know how rapidly college costs have increased and are increasing and how many students start out their working careers with huge debts, huge student loan debts. The proposal that Senator GRASSLEY and I worked together on will make a real difference to graduates as they begin to start their careers to begin their families. They will be able to deduct the interest on those loans. And given sometimes that those loans can be as high as \$80,000 and \$90,000, this should be a benefit to young people who want to pursue education.

Second, the bill contains a version of the proposal that I offered in the Senate that will help to create new economic activity and new jobs at thousands of abandoned commercial and industrial sites around the world.

There are all too many brownfields sites in our communities, property that had formerly been used by business but which has become environmentally contaminated or polluted and then abandoned. By allowing those individuals who want to clean up these polluted areas and use them for new businesses, by allowing them to expense the costs of their environmental cleanup rather than having to capitalize those costs over a period of years, it will create a brand new incentive to bring this property back into the economic mainstream, to create jobs, to clean up the environment, and to restore and reclaim parts of our communities all over this country.

Third, this bill will begin to address a problem that I have spoken about on the Senate floor many times, the crumbling schools around America. Since I have come to the Senate, I have worked to forge a new Federal and State and local partnership to rebuild our Nation's crumbling schools. We cannot lift our kids up if our schools are falling down, and I am pleased that this bill has taken the first step in that direction by creating a new category of no-interest bonds for communities to use to rehabilitate their schools. High poverty districts will be able to issue \$800,000 in bonds to repair their schools, to pay for new teacher training, new equipment purchases and other expenses needed for revitalization of educational facilities.

I think that is an important step in the right direction. It does not begin to do all that we need to do, but it is a step.

The bill also increases the small issuer arbitrage rebate exemption for certain school facilities funds which provide some small rural schools with relief from the burdensome administrative requirements associated with the issuance of tax-free bonds. And so everybody wins under this approach to rebuilding the schools. Although these proposals, frankly, are dwarfed by the \$112 billion in school construction need