

EAST TIMOR

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, before I leave, I want to take a moment to also talk about one other issue. That is the issue of what is happening in Indonesia.

All of us have seen atrocities and read of atrocities in many parts of the world—most recently in Indonesia where we have seen the people of East Timor vote for independence, and they were told by the Government of Indonesia that vote would be respected. Now we see bands of militia-type people that, it is said, could be connected with the Indonesian Government going in and committing terrible acts. This is a terrible thing. It is horrible. We hate to see it.

I think there are many things that can be done.

First and foremost, we must call on Indonesia to do what they said they would do and respect the right of the people of East Timor in their independence.

I also think we should be supportive of those who are volunteering to go over there if necessary. This is where I think we can show some leadership from the United States. I would call on the President to do that. That is not to all of a sudden start talking about sending American troops into East Timor.

I think by beginning to start bandying that around, all of a sudden you are going to start seeing people depend on American troops. I don't think we have to start talking about American troops in East Timor. I think it would be harmful if we did that because of the vast commitment we have in the Balkans right now as well as the DMZ in Korea, as well as in Japan, as well as in Europe, and other places in the world.

No one would ever walk away from the responsibility that America must shoulder as a superpower. But Australia has stepped up to the line to try to help bring an end to the chaos that I hope is temporarily erupting in East Timor. I think we should help them do that by offering logistical support but letting people volunteer.

This is a time when we can look at the areas of the world that have regional conflicts, and we can let the sophisticated countries that have quality military operations be the main part of a force in those areas.

In fact, it appears that Australia, New Zealand, and many others are volunteering to take this policekeeping mission. I think it would be wise for us to let them do that. Let them take that responsibility and offer our logistical help if they need it. But don't start bandying about the possibility of U.S. troops going in on the ground when our troops are stretched so thin—when we have had the worst recruiting year and the worst retention year since the early 1970s because our troops are in mission fatigue. They are not able to stay in top training because they are stretched so thin.

I hope the President will take this opportunity to set a U.S. policy and to

work with our allies to have a division of responsibility that is fair.

If we do that, then America will be able to do what only it can uniquely do, and that is the air power that we have shown that we have in the last 6 months. Let us keep our role to responding where only we are able to keep the peace—in the Middle East, in Korea, in Japan, and in parts of Europe. Let's work with our allies for a fair responsibility sharing that will set a precedent so that we will all have the staying power to provide the critical needs in regions as they occur.

I hope President Clinton will take this opportunity to be a leader and to represent the United States and our national security issues and our national security stability. If he will do that, I think you will begin to see a foreign policy that will evolve with all of our allies sharing and keeping all of us strong by not overburdening any one of us to the detriment of all.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

JUVENILE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, so far, we have had one meeting of a conference to resolve differences in the Senate and House passed juvenile justice bills. I commented at that conference meeting, on August 5, 1999, about how unfortunate it was that the leadership in the Congress delayed action on the conference all summer. In fact, the conference met less than 24 hours before the Congress adjourned for its long August recess.

Unfortunately, we did not conclude our work but left this conference and important work on the juvenile justice legislation to languish for the last five weeks of the summer.

Due to the delays in convening this conference and then its abrupt adjournment before completing its work, we knew before our August recess that the programs to enhance school safety and protect our children and families called for in this legislation would not be in place before school began.

The fact that American children are starting school without Congress fin-

ishing its work on this legislation is wrong.

We had to overcome technical obstacles and threatened filibusters to begin the juvenile justice conference. It is no secret that there are those in both bodies who would prefer no action and no conference to moving forward on the issues of juvenile violence and crime. Now that we have convened this conference, we should waste no more time to get down to business and finish our work promptly.

We have seen the kind of swift conference action the Congress is capable of doing with the Y2K law that provides special legal protections to businesses. That Y2K bill was passed by the Senate almost a month after the HATCH-LEAHY juvenile justice bill, on June 16th, but was sent to conference, worked out, and sent to the President's desk within two short weeks. That bill is already law. The example set by the Y2K legislation shows that if we have the will, there is a way to get legislation done and done quickly.

Those of us serving on the conference and many who are not on the conference have worked on versions of this legislation for several years now. We spent two weeks on the Senate floor in May considering almost 50 amendments to S. 254, the Senate juvenile justice bill, and making many improvements to the underlying bill. We worked hard in the Senate for a strong bipartisan juvenile justice bill, and we should take this opportunity to cut through our remaining partisan differences to make a difference in the lives of our children and families.

I appreciate that one of the most contentious issues in this conference is guns, even though sensible gun control proposals are just a small part of the comprehensive legislation we are considering. The question that the majority in Congress must answer is what are they willing to do to protect children from gun violence?

A report released two months ago on juvenile violence by the Justice Department concludes that, "data . . . indicate that guns play a major role in juvenile violence." We need to do more to keep guns out of the hands of children who do not know how to use them or plan to use them to hurt others.

Law enforcement officers in this country need help in keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. I am not talking about people who use guns for hunting or for sport, but about criminals and unsupervised children. An editorial that appeared today in the Rutland Daily Herald summed up the dilemma in this juvenile justice conference for the majority:

Republicans in Congress have tried to follow the line of the National Rifle Association. It will be interesting to see if they can hold that line when the Nation's crime fighters let them know that fighting crime also means fighting guns.

Every parent, teacher and student in this country was concerned this summer about school violence over the last

two years and worried about when the next shooting may occur. They only hope it does not happen at their school or involve their children. This is an unacceptable and intolerable situation.

We all recognize that there is no single cause and no single legislative solution that will cure the ill of youth violence in our schools or in our streets. But we have an opportunity before us to do our part. We should seize this opportunity to act on balanced, effective juvenile justice legislation, and measures to keep guns out of the hands of children and away from criminals. I hope we get to work soon and finish what we started in the juvenile justice conference. We are already tardy.

DR. PAUL VAN de WATER

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to talk about someone who has provided invaluable assistance to me and the Budget Committees over the years—Dr. Paul Van de Water, the Assistant Director for Budget Analysis of the Congressional Budget Office. Dr. Van de Water is leaving the Congressional Budget Office this week, after 18 years of distinguished service to the Congress, the budget process, and the American public. He will become the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner for Policy at the Social Security Administration.

Paul Van de Water came to CBO in 1981, the same year I assumed Chairmanship of the Senate Budget Committee. For years he headed the Projections Unit—doing the bread and butter work involved with producing Congressional budgets. Without CBO, I could not have done my job, and Paul contributed mightily to almost every CBO analysis we needed. He has served over and above the call of duty, spending nights and weekends working on our two Budget Committees' requests. I am sure he will never forget the two weeks spent at Andrews Air Force Base during the 1990 Budget Summit. We will not soon forget his sharp analytical skills, his appreciation of Congressional demands, and the institutional consistency he has provided CBO over the last 18 years. Dr. Van de Water has truly been an exceptional public servant.

I know I am speaking for all Members who have ever served on the Budget Committees of the House and Senate, and all our staff, when I express our gratitude to Paul for his contributions to this Congressional budget process. I join everyone in congratulating him on his service to the country and wishing him luck in his future work at the Social Security Administration.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 7, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,654,526,718,244.87 (Five tril-

lion, six hundred fifty-four billion, five hundred twenty-six million, seven hundred eighteen thousand, two hundred forty-four dollars and eighty-seven cents).

Five years ago, September 7, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,683,504,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred eighty-three billion, five hundred four million).

Ten years ago, September 7, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,861,363,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred sixty-one billion, three hundred sixty-three million).

Fifteen years ago, September 7, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,572,266,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred seventy-two billion, two hundred sixty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,082,260,718,244.87 (Four trillion, eighty-two billion, two hundred sixty million, seven hundred eighteen thousand, two hundred forty-four dollars and eighty-seven cents) during the past 15 years.

ROBERT RUBIN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin. Sworn in on January 10, 1995, as the 70th Secretary of the Treasury, Bob Rubin resigned earlier this month.

Prior to serving in the administration, Secretary Rubin spent 26 years at Goldman, Sachs, & Co., starting as an associate and leaving as co-chairman and co-senior partner. We have had few Secretaries of the Treasury who have brought such knowledge and expertise to the job.

His tenure as Secretary was marked by a steady, even-handed approach to economic policy in this country. He served in a critical time in our Nation's history. On his watch, the United States has dramatically increased its role as a leader in the global marketplace. The past 4 years have been marked by turbulent economic times, and with his leadership we have weathered numerous international financial storms, including the Asian financial crisis, the Mexico peso devaluation, and the ongoing economic turmoil of the former Soviet Union.

Under Secretary Rubin's leadership, we have maintained fiscal discipline. In 1992, the budget deficit was \$290 billion, the largest dollar deficit on record. Last year, the budget surplus was nearly \$70 billion, the largest dollar surplus on record.

Under Secretary Rubin, we have had a robust economy with strong job creation, inflation virtually nonexistent, and unemployment at its lowest rate in 29 years. His economic accomplishments are staggering.

Over the past 4 years, 18.4 million new jobs have been created. Also, the unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in April 1999, which is the lowest in 29 years. At the time of Secretary Rubin's start in 1992, unemployment was at 7.5 percent. In fact, the unemployment

rate has been below 5 percent for 22 months in a row—the lowest sustained unemployment rate in 29 years.

After adjusting for inflation, wages have increased almost 2.7 percent in 1998—that is the fastest real wage growth in more than two decades and the third year in a row—the longest sustained growth since the early 1970s.

Inflation is the lowest since the 1950s. In fact, inflation was at 1.4 percent for the beginning of 1999.

I think the greatest tribute to Secretary Rubin has been the reaction of the financial markets to his departure. Our financial markets have responded with continued stable growth. Investors, both domestic and abroad, understand that the only way that Bob Rubin would consent to leave his post is if he felt that the U.S. economy was healthy and heading in the right direction.

While I am saddened with Secretary Rubin's departure, I can think of no better replacement to fill the top post at Treasury than Larry Summers. I believe that it is critical that there be a smooth transition from one Treasury Secretary to another. Secretary Summers' leadership will provide a seamless transition and continuity to ensure stability in our financial markets.

Secretary Summers' extensive academic expertise and tenure as Deputy Treasury Secretary make him an invaluable addition to the Cabinet. I am confident of his leadership ability and a strong believer that he will make an excellent Secretary of the Treasury.

Bob Rubin has represented the best in public service, and our nation truly owes him a debt of gratitude. His tireless leadership helped put our fiscal house in order, but—just as important—helped forge a strong and vibrant economy that has created jobs and economic opportunity for millions of Americans. With his impressive financial expertise and background, he uniquely understood that government and business could work together so that everyone could benefit from economic expansion. And though he fought to make our nation a leader in the global marketplace—Bob Rubin ultimately understood the most important street in our nation was not just Wall Street, but Main Street.

America is better off today because of Bob Rubin.

I would like to thank him for his service to our nation and wish him all the best in his next endeavor. I would also like to congratulate Secretary Summers on his new position. I am confident of his success and I look forward to continuing to work with him.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAWAII'S STATEHOOD

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, on August 21, 1999, the State of Hawaii celebrated its 40th anniversary as the 50th State of this great Nation.

Statehood for Hawaii was not a sudden or impulsive idea. During the debate on statehood for Hawaii in the