

So the statements of Mr. Popkovich and the other Russian officials essentially threatening an arms race if the U.S. does what it must do to protect its citizens are very disappointing. They sound like something from the past, an echo of the cold war that is over.

The United States has embarked in good faith in discussions about the need to modernize the ABM Treaty. We negotiated in good faith with Russia when it demanded changes to the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty in order to enable Russia to adapt to changed circumstances. It would be unfortunate if the United States were put in the position of choosing between defending its citizens and adhering to an outdated agreement because we have already determined that we will defend ourselves.

I am confident the Senate will not accept an arrangement in which the U.S. continues to be vulnerable to new threats because of a 27-year-old agreement that is so clearly out of date. What is needed now is for the rhetoric to be cooled, for threats about arms races and new missiles to be set aside, and let serious and fruitful discussions proceed. It is in not only our interest for that to happen but Russia's as well.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 8, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,656,209,987,935.17 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-six billion, two hundred nine million, nine hundred eighty-seven thousand, nine hundred thirty-five dollars and seventeen cents).

One year ago, September 8, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,548,700,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-eight billion, seven hundred million).

Five years ago, September 8, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,679,340,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred seventy-nine billion, three hundred forty million).

Ten years ago, September 8, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,855,859,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred fifty-five billion, eight hundred fifty-nine million) which reflects a doubling of the debt—an increase of almost \$3 trillion—\$2,800,350,987,935.17 (Two trillion, eight hundred billion, three hundred fifty million, nine hundred eighty-seven thousand, nine hundred thirty-five dollars and seventeen cents) during the past 10 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 33. Joint resolution deploring the actions of President Clinton regarding granting clemency to FALN terrorists.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5082. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closes Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area for Pollock Allocated to the Inshore Component," received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-341. A resolution adopted by the Board of Tipler Township, Florence County, Wisconsin relative to the Nicolet National Forest; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-342. A resolution adopted by the House of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature relative to the Kyoto Protocol; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 11-176

Whereas, the United States is a signatory to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Global Climate Change (FCCC); and

Whereas, a protocol to implement the goals of the FCCC was negotiated in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan (the Kyoto Protocol), which, when ratified, will require the United States to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by seven percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012; and

Whereas, the world's leading climate scientists have warned that rising concentrations of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" in the atmosphere threaten to increase average global temperatures at unprecedented rates; and

Whereas, climatic alternations will have a dramatic, if not catastrophic, effects on

human health and well-being, severe weather event, agricultural productivity, and other resource industries; and

Whereas, a National Academy of Sciences study concludes that the United States can reduce energy consumption by twenty percent or more, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions at a net economic benefit to the country; and

Whereas, increased United States energy efficiency and technological development will improve United States competitiveness in world trade; and

Whereas, past greenhouse emissions have already committed the world to a future rise in global temperatures, thereby making immediate action imperative to protect the health, welfare and security of the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, Eleventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, That the Senate of the United States be urged to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and that the United States Congress be urged to take the lead in lowering greenhouse gas emissions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House shall certify and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter transmit copies of this resolution signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives be forwarded by the clerk to the President of the United States Senate, the CNMI Governor, Chair, CNMI 902 Consultation Team, and to the CNMI Washington Representative.

POM-343. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the McGregor Range at Fort Bliss, Texas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 38

Whereas, Future military threats to the United States and its allies may come from technologically advanced rogue states that for the first time are armed with long-range missiles capable of delivering nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons to an increasingly wider range of countries; and

Whereas, The U.S. military strategy requires flexible and strong armed forces that are well-trained, well-equipped, and ready to defend our nation's interests against these devastating weapons of mass destruction; and

Whereas, Previous rounds of military base closures combined with the realignment of the Department of the Army force structure have established Fort Bliss as the Army's Air Defense Artillery Center of Excellence, thus making McGregor Range, which is a part of Fort Bliss, the nation's principal training facility for air defense systems; and

Whereas, McGregor Range is inextricably linked to the advanced missile defense testing network that includes Fort Bliss and the White Sands Missile Range, providing, verifying, and maintaining the highest level of missile defense testing for the Patriot, Avenger, Stinger, and other advanced missile defense systems; and

Whereas, The McGregor Range comprises more than half of the Fort Bliss installation land area, and the range and its restricted airspace in conjunction with the White Sands Missile Range, is crucial to the development and testing of the Army Tactical Missile System and the Theater High Altitude Area Defense System; and

Whereas, The high quality and unique training capabilities of the McGregor Range allow the verification of our military readiness in air-to-ground combat, including the Army's only opportunity to test the Patriot missile in live fire, tactical scenarios, as well

as execute the "Roving Sands" joint training exercises held annually at Fort Bliss; and

Whereas, The Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986 requires that the withdrawal from public use of all military land governed by the Army, including McGregor Range, must be terminated on November 6, 2001, unless such withdrawal is renewed by an Act of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby support the U.S. Congress in ensuring that the critical infrastructure for the U.S. military defense strategy be maintained through the renewal of the withdrawal from public use of the McGregor Range land beyond 2001; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-344. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to benefits for military retirees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, Military retirees who have served honorably for 20 or more years constitute a significant part of the aging population in the United States; and

Whereas, These retirees were encouraged to make the United States Armed Forces a career, in part by the promise of lifetime health care for themselves and their families; and

Whereas, Prior to the age of 65, these retirees are provided health services by the United States Department of Defense's TRICARE Prime program, but those retirees who reach the age of 65 lose a significant portion of the promised health care due to Medicare eligibility; and

Whereas, Many of these retirees are also unable to access military treatment facilities for health care and life maintenance medications because they live in areas where there are no military treatment facilities or where these facilities have downsized so significantly that available space for care has become nonexistent; and

Whereas, The loss of access to health care services provided by the military has resulted in the government breaking its promise of lifetime health care; and

Whereas, Without continued affordable health care, including pharmaceuticals, these retirees have limited access to quality health care and significantly less care than other retired federal civilians have under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; and

Whereas, It is necessary to enact legislation that would restore health care benefits equitable with those of other retired federal workers; and

Whereas, Several proposals to meet this requirement are currently under consideration before the United States Congress and the federal Department of Defense and Department of Health and Human Services; of these proposals, the federal government has already begun to establish demonstration projects around the country to be conducted over the next three years, which would allow Medicare to reimburse the Department of Defense for the costs of providing military retirees and their dependents health care; this project would allow a limited number of Medicare-eligible beneficiaries to enroll in the Department of Defense's TRICARE

Prime program and receive all of their health care under that program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 76 Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to maintain its commitment to America's military retirees by providing lifetime health care for military retirees over the age of 65; to enact comprehensive legislation that affords military retirees the ability to access health care either through military treatment facilities or through the military's network of health care providers, as well as legislation to require opening the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to those uniformed services beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicare, on the same basis and conditions that apply to retired federal civilian employees; and to enact any other appropriate legislation that would address the above concerns; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the president of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

POM-345. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75

Whereas, The Lower Rio Grande Valley is an area of Texas vital to the economic success and well-being of the state; and

Whereas, The area faces a variety of challenges, one of which is a significant demand for indigent health care; this need is complicated by transportation issues and other difficulties affecting patient access to health care services; and

Whereas, The State of Texas operates the South Texas Hospital in the city of Harlingen, and this institution provides critically needed health care services to indigent patients in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and

Whereas, State funds used to provide indigent health care services at the South Texas Hospital have been used to obtain matching federal funds through the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program and their use has increased the resources available to provide health care services to indigent patients throughout Texas; and

Whereas, The South Texas Hospital's physical facilities are in need of major renovation, and there are other hospitals in the Lower Rio Grande Valley that can provide inpatient services needed by the indigent population of the region; and

Whereas, The mission of the South Texas Hospital and the public good will best be served by contracting with public and private hospitals in the Lower Rio Grande Valley so that they may provide inpatient services to the indigent population; and

Whereas, If the state intends to continue its commitment to provide needed health services to the people of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, then the Texas Legislature must encourage the federal government to continue matching state funds used to provide eligible inpatient services and to participate in innovative approaches that maximize local, state, and federal resources to address the pressing need for indigent health services in Texas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the

Congress of the United States to qualify the contributions made by the State of Texas for eligible inpatient hospital services provided by contract in the Lower Rio Grande Valley for federal matching funds under the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-346. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to customs facilities at Texas-Mexico border crossing areas; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, Bottlenecks at customs inspection lanes have contributed to traffic congestion at Texas-Mexico border crossing areas, slowing the flow of commerce and detracting from the economic potential of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and

Whereas, Smuggling of drugs inside truck parts and cargo containers compounds the problem, necessitating lengthy vehicle searches that put federal customs officials in a crossfire between their mandate to speed the movement of goods and their mandate to reduce the flow of illegal substances; and

Whereas, At the state level, the Texas comptroller of public accounts has released a report titled "Bordering the Future," recommending among other items that U.S. customs inspection facilities at major international border crossings stay open around the clock; and

Whereas, At the federal level, the U.S. General Accounting Office is conducting a similar study of border commerce and NAFTA issues, and the U.S. Customs Service is working with a private trade entity to review and analyze the relationship between its inspector numbers and its inspection workload; and

Whereas, Efficiency in the flow of NAFTA commerce requires two federal customs-related funding commitments: (1) improved infrastructure, including additional customs inspection lanes; and (2) a concurrent expansion in customs personnel and customs operating hours; and

Whereas, Section 1119 of the federal Transportation Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), creating the Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program, serves as a funding source for border area infrastructure improvements and regulatory enhancements; and

Whereas, Domestic profits and income increase in tandem with exports and imports, generating federal revenue, some portion of which deserves channeling into the customs activity that supports increased international trade; and

Whereas, Texas legislators and businesses, being close to the situation geographically, are acutely aware of the fixes and upgrades that require attention if NAFTA prosperity is truly to live up to the expectations of this state and nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to provide funding for infrastructure improvements, more customs inspection lanes and customs officials, and 24-hour customs operations at border crossings between Texas and Mexico; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-347. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, In California and elsewhere, throughout a prolonged period of economic well-being and record low unemployment rates, recent national and California studies both have unaccepted findings that only one-third of adults with disabilities nationally and in California hold part-time or full-time jobs; and

Whereas, In these same studies, 75 percent of those not working stated they wanted to work; and

Whereas, The lack of access to private health insurance or the lack of continuing access to Medi-Cal or Medicare is the main obstacle individuals with significant disabilities face when working or returning to work; and

Whereas, The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) work incentive rules have the potential to be effective but are underutilized, overly complex, and inconsistently administered. Social Security work incentives are used by only a small fraction of those eligible and often result in benefit by only a small fraction of those eligible and often result in benefit overpayments that must be repaid by the payee; and

Whereas, People with disabilities who are SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients have limited choice in employment services; and

Whereas, On January 28, 1999, Senator James M. Jeffords, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Senator William V. Roth, Jr., and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, introduced Senate Bill 331, cited as the "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999," to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide these individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes; and

Whereas, On March 18, 1999, Representative Rick A. Lazio, Representative Michael Bilirakis, Representative Nancy L. Johnson, Representative Henry A. Waxman, Representative Tom Bliley, Jr., Representative Bob Matsui, Representative Fortney (Pete) Stark, Representative Brian Bilbray, Representative Steve Horn, of California and other states, introduced House Resolution 1180, cited as the "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999," a measure similar to that introduced in the Senate; and

Whereas, The federal act, as introduced, would provide states with the option and incentive grants to set up programs to extend medicaid coverage to certain classes of SSDI and SSI beneficiaries who work, provide more choice of employment services, and establish a \$2 for \$1 earned income offset demonstration project for SSDI beneficiaries; and

Whereas, The federal act, as introduced, contains strong work incentive and planning provisions for individuals with disabilities who work or want to work, and provisions for community work incentive planners to

help individuals understand and use federal and state work incentive programs, Social Security specialists in work incentives at field offices to disseminate accurate information, protection and advocacy assistance when an individual's situation is negatively impacted as a result of work, and an advisory panel to counsel the Commissioner of Social Security and other federal agencies on employment and work incentive programs; and

Whereas, The interconnected provisions of the federal act work in concert to remove work barriers for people with disabilities; and

Whereas, California with disabilities want to live and work side by side with others in their communities and this goal can begin to happen with passage of this historic national legislation; and

Whereas, It is the California Legislature's strongest belief that people have the responsibility and right to meaningful employment opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature affirms its endorsement of the federal "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999," and urges the United States Congress to pass this act at once in order to meet the urgent demands of people with disabilities who work or want to work across the nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Budget, and Finance, and to the Chairpersons of the House Committees on Appropriations, Budget, Commerce, and Ways and Means, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 974. A bill to establish a program to afford high school graduates from the District of Columbia the benefits of in-State tuition at State colleges and universities outside the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-154).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1571. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for permanent eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1572. A bill to provide that children's sleepwear shall be manufactured in accordance with stricter flammability standards; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 1573. A bill to provide a reliable source of funding for State, local, and Federal ef-

orts to conserve land and water, preserve historic resources, improve environmental resources, protect fish and wildlife, and preserve open and green spaces; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. Res. 180. A resolution reauthorizing the John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1571. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for permanent eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PERMANENT ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE FOR VETERANS

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to legislation Senator AKAKA and I are introducing today. Entitled "Permanent Eligibility of Members of the Selected Reserve for Veterans Home Loans," this important legislation does not change existing law, but rather makes permanent a critical benefit for the National Guard and Reserve personnel.

Under current law, selected Reservists and National Guard personnel who complete six years of service are eligible for guaranteed home loans. This is a significant benefit that has been enjoyed by active duty personnel for many years and has proven to be very effective. In 1992, there was broad bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate for extending this benefit to the hard working men and women of the Reserves on a trial basis until 1999. Last year the program was extended to the year 2003. However, as we near that date, no potential recruit may participate in the program because it expires before they are able to complete six years of service. Therefore, we introduce this bill in an effort to make this benefit permanent.

Our Reserves and National Guard are being called upon more and more today. They are a crucial asset to our Nation's military, but the Reserves are not exempt from problems such as low recruiting that currently face our military. This legislation will give the Reserve Component an added recruitment incentive to offer potential service members.

Mr. President, more and more of our service members are taking the giant step of buying a home. Since the start of the VA Home Loan Program in 1992 through 1996, 33,224 loans have been guaranteed by the VA. Only 93 of those