

provided direct medical aid to nearly 600 patients who were in dire need of treatment.

“Clothes, Food and Education for the Poor and Needy” is continuing to collect donations for relief of the downtrodden, and I commend Abhishek Gupta for his dedication to such a worthy cause. It is rare that so young a citizen can play such a direct role in both reducing human pain and suffering, and providing inspiration to old and young alike.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, April 28, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,598,229,787,052.49 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-eight billion, two hundred twenty-nine million, seven hundred eighty-seven thousand, fifty-two dollars and forty-nine cents).

One year ago, April 28, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,512,794,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred twelve billion, seven hundred ninety-four million).

Five years ago, April 28, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,564,295,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred sixty-four billion, two hundred ninety-five million).

Ten years ago, April 28, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,756,668,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred fifty-six billion, six hundred sixty-eight million) which reflects a doubling of the debt—an increase of almost \$3 trillion—\$2,841,561,787,052.49 (Two trillion, eight hundred forty-one billion, five hundred sixty-one million, seven hundred eighty-seven thousand, fifty-two dollars and forty-nine cents) during the past 15 years.

SENATOR DAVID PRYOR—HELPING THE REFUGEES AND INSPIRING US ALL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, our former colleague in the Senate from Arkansas, David Pryor, has a new mission, and I believe that all of us will be greatly inspired by his commitment and dedication.

During the spring term this year, Senator Pryor has been a fellow at the Institute of Politics in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Last week, touched by the tragic plight of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from Kosovo, he left for Tirana, Albania to be a volunteer with the International Rescue Committee, which is dedicated to easing the plight of the refugees.

I commend our former colleague for the inspiring example he is setting of service to those most in need. His action clearly and deeply impressed his students at Harvard. An article in the Harvard Crimson last week reported his decision and his departure for Albania. I believe the article will be of interest to all of us in the Senate, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Harvard Crimson, Apr. 21, 1999]

IOP FELLOW PRYOR HEADS TO BALKAN STATES—FORMER SENATOR TO AID KOSOVAR REFUGEES

(By Alysson R. Ford)

Since the NATO bombings of Yugoslavia began almost a month ago, members of the Harvard community have expressed concern about the plight of Kosovar refugees in peace vigils, panels, and class discussions on Kosovo.

But David Pryor—a spring term fellow at the Institute of Politics (IOP) and a former U.S. senator and governor of Arkansas—has taken his desire to help ease the refugee crisis a few steps further.

After notifying colleagues and students of his decision Monday, Pryor departed yesterday for the Albanian capital of Tirana as volunteer for the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

In a letter to Director of the IOP Alan K. Simpson, Pryor expressed that he wanted to do something concrete for those devastated by the conflict.

Pryor wrote that he did not know exactly how he would help the Kosovar refugees but added that he felt it was important to offer his assistance.

“What I am doing is something I must do. I don’t know exactly where I will be, nor do I know what my assignment will be. I just hope I can make a contribution—even though small,” Pryor wrote. “I was too young for Hitler, too self-preoccupied for [the civil rights struggle in] Selma, and this time I’ve got to do something.”

Pryor estimated in his letter that he would be gone 30 to 60 days with the IRC, an organization created in 1933 to assist victims who were fleeing from Nazi Germany. The group has been in the Balkans since 1991, according to Edward P. Bligh, IRC vice president of communications.

Most recently, the IRC has sent volunteers and aid to Albania and Macedonia to help the refugees who have been streaming out of Kosovo. The group is helping to shelter refugees and develop water supplies and sanitary facilities. It also provides medical services and has special programs for children, Bligh said.

Pryor also wrote in his letter that the IRC volunteers had inspired him.

“To be able to watch and know these gallant, and yes, believing, young men and women who want to serve restores faith and binds our hopes together,” Pryor wrote.

But those who know Pryor said he is the one providing inspiration to others.

“Here’s a man that has dedicated his life to serving the people of Arkansas [and] the people of the U.S.,” said IOP fellow and former South Carolina governor David Beasley. “He makes us proud to be American, and he inspires us all.”

Simpson spoke of the positive example that Pryor is setting, particularly to the often-cynical students he sees on campus.

“When [students] look around cynically at politicians and those looking only to serve themselves, they’ll remember David Pryor [as a positive example],” Simpson said.

Pryor taught a study group at the IOP this semester called “Everything (Well Almost) You Ever Wanted To Know About Winning and Holding Public Office But Were Afraid to Ask.”

Students who know Pryor said they were impressed by his commitment to helping others.

“For this 65-plus-year-old, former U.S. senator to just decide to go off to Albania . . . I

think it really exemplifies the kind of person he is and the kind of senator he was,” said Eugene Krupitsky ’02, one of Pryor’s study group liaisons.

“It was just amazing to think of this individual just leaving the IOP early to go do community action. It’s exemplary that he is bridging the gap between politics and community service,” he added.

In his letter, Pryor wrote of a friend from his home state who has a sign painted on the side of his truck that says, “When you wake up, get up, and when you get up, do something.”

“That’s what I intend to do,” Pryor wrote. “I’m going to go over and do something.”

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW CONTROL AND PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Smith-Snowe Combined Sewer Overflow Control and Partnership Act of 1999. If enacted, this bill will eliminate or appropriately control combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges in this country by the year 2010. This legislation will also help ratepayers in at least 53 communities throughout the state of Maine and over 1,000 other communities around the country. Presently, over 43 million people in the U.S. are incurring the high costs of trying to overcome the problem of combined sewer overflows because of the lack of federal statute and funding to meet federal sewage treatment mandates for these CSO communities.

Mr. President, CSOs are by far the single largest public works project in the history of almost every CSO community. When the Maine Municipal Association members met with me last month, they informed me of communities where people are facing paying more in sewer rates than they will owe in property taxes. This, to me, is unacceptable.

Most, but not all, of the combined sewer systems are located primarily in the Northeast and Great Lakes areas where sewer lines and stormwater collection systems were first constructed in the 1800s and early 1900s. Typically, sewer lines designated to carry raw sewage from urban residential areas and business were laid first. These were followed by stormwater drainage systems designed to collect rainwater during storms to reduce or eliminate urban flooding. In many cases, sewer lines and stormwater conduits were connected into a combined sewer, which served as a single collection system to transport both sewage and stormwater. Eleven states in the two geographic areas of New England and the Great Lakes account for 85 percent of the water-quality problems attributed to CSOs nationwide.

Sewer overflow problems arise mainly during wet weather, causing an overload of the systems, and the untreated or partially treated waste water discharges through combined sewer overflow outfalls into receiving waters such as rivers, lakes, estuaries and bays. The CSOs are the last remaining discharges from a point, or known, source

of untreated or partially treated sewage into the nation's waters.

The federal government has been long on regulation and short on financial assistance. The CSO problem was first addressed when Congress revisited the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, better known as the Clean Water Act, almost three decades ago. The subsequent Clean Water Act Amendments of 1972 established the fundamental principles and objectives of a national wastewater management policy. To implement these goals, a national program was created to regulate the discharge of pollutant into surface waters, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES. This system required outfalls for industrial process waste and sewage from municipal treatment plants. Individual states were allowed to assume responsibility for the administration of NPDES once their permitting processes were approved by the EPA.

Maine and 37 other states operate EPA-approved NPDES permitting programs. The law requires that state water-quality standards be consistent with federal policy, but, if necessary to achieve the act's objectives, states are allowed to impose water-quality standards more stringent than those required by federal regulations.

Section 10(a)(4) of the CWA Amendments of 1972 explicitly linked the achievement of national water-quality goals to federal financial assistance for municipalities affected by the new mandate by creating the Construction Grants Program (CGP) that provided subsidies for the construction of publicly owned treatment works. In Section 516(b), the EPA was charged with administering the program, and was required to develop biennial estimates of the cost of construction of all needed publicly owned treatment works in each of the States.

In the past, federal funds have paid for as much as 75 percent of the construction costs for water treatment and sewage facilities. In recent years, federal contributions have been limited to low interest loans rather than grants, through a revolving loan fund (SRF), and local ratepayers and taxpayers bear the burden of rehabilitating, upgrading and for operating costs. It is clear that more federal funding assistance is needed so that CSO communities can be given policy and financial tools with which to handle their ongoing CSO problem of sewer overflows into our rivers and bays.

The Smith-Snowe CSO bill amends the Clean Water Act and addresses the problems faced by such CSO cities and towns, 45 in my state alone. The purpose of the bill is to move forward with technology-based controls that are the most cost effective and to make sure communities do not put in controls that are not actually needed. The bill seeks to codify the Environmental Protection Agency's rational approach to CSO control, its "CSO Policy of April, 1994". Codification is necessary since

the implementation of EPA's CSO policy has been inadequate to date.

The bill also provides congressional approval of the inclusion of realistic water quality standards compliance schedules for CSO control in permits and other enforceable documents issued as called for in the 1994 EPA Control Policy.

Initiation of the water quality standards/designated use review and revision process called for in EPA's Control Policy must also occur before requiring long-term CSO control plan implementation. The guidelines that the EPA is currently developing to assist communities for implementing measures for the control of CSOs are only just that, guidelines, and could potentially be changed after a community has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars following them. CSO communities need certainty, not changing guidelines after costly measures have already been taken.

The bill also authorizes federal grant funding assistance for CSO communities to implement long term CSO controls.

The problem of CSOs has been a long standing issue Mr. President, for which I cosponsored similar legislation in the House in the 102nd Congress. The CSO problem is not going to go away, but only become a bigger financial burden for our CSO communities.

I want to thank my colleagues who have agreed to cosponsor the Smith-Snowe CSO bill and urge those not yet cosponsoring to join us in support of this much needed legislation.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, Mr. Hanrahan, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1569. An act to prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense from being used for the deployment of ground elements of the United States Armed Forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia unless that deployment is specifically authorized by law.

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-2741. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Researcher registration and research room procedures" (RIN3095-AA69), received April 26, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2742. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Federal Employees' Benefits Equity

Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2743. A communication from the Chairman, United States Parole Commission, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2744. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the procurement list, received April 20, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2745. A communication from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the procurement list, received April 7, 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2746. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual management report for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2747. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal years 1997 and 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2748. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Sixth Triennial Report to Congress on Drug Abuse and Addiction Research", dated November, 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2749. A communication from the Board Members, United States of America Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation amending the Railroad Retirement Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2750. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a statement of policy entitled "Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2751. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" received April 9, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2752. A communication from the President, United States Institute of Peace, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the audit for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2753. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor, transmitting jointly, a draft of proposed amendments to the Older Americans Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2754. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Regulation—Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs" (RIN1840-AC59), received April 12, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2755. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Final Funding Priorities for Fiscal