

pause in the bombing. I did not make it open-ended. I made it crystal clear that we would communicate to Milosevic that if he used this 48-hour period of time to repair radar systems, to resupply military, and if he did not stop the slaughter and if he did not remove troops, we would immediately begin to bomb again. But I felt it was critically important to do that because of the momentum of the G-8 countries going to the United Nations and a possible diplomatic solution.

I wish we had done that because then there was the bombing of the Chinese Embassy and all that has happened since. I just want to make the following point: I then came to the floor again last week and called for a temporary pause in the bombing, and I do so again this week. I do not want to engage in moral equivalency. I did not want this century to end this way. I did not want Milosevic to be able to get away with what he has been able to get away with, which has been the murder of innocent people, noncombatant civilians.

But, by the same token, it troubles me when I read reports that we don't use Apache helicopters for fear that we would be flying too low and we could see some of our Americans shot down and killed. I have that same concern.

When I first voted for airstrikes, I assumed we would be prosecuting the war in Kosovo. I assumed this was the risk. I stayed up thinking, my God, we are going to lose people. What if it were my son or daughter? Would I believe they were doing the right thing?

I believe our intentions are good, but I think these high-tech, high-fly airstrikes, if it continues on and on, it is going to lead to the death of many other innocent people, and it is going to undercut our moral case. There is no question about it.

When we took this vote—and I read from the RECORD and I will conclude on this—I asked my colleague, Senator BIDEN:

Could my colleague, for the purpose of the legislative record, spell out the objective? Could my colleague spell out what his understanding is when we say the President is authorized to conduct military operations?

Senator BIDEN's response, which I think was a good one, was:

My understanding of the objective stated by the President is that his objective is to end the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and the persecution of the Albanian minority population in Kosovo and to maintain security and stability in the Balkans as a consequence of slowing up, stopping, or curtailing the ability of Milosevic and the Serbian VJ and MUP to be able to go in and cause circumstances which provide for the likelihood of a half million refugees to destabilize the region. The objective at the end of the day is, hopefully, that this will bring Milosevic back to the table. Hopefully, he will agree to what all of NATO said they wanted him to agree to, and hopefully that will occur. In the event it does not occur, the objective will be to degrade his military capability so significantly that he will not be able to impose his will upon Kosovo as he is doing now.

I suggest that perhaps our objectives have shifted because much of the massacre has taken place—and maybe more would have if not for the airstrikes, I don't know. But many people have been murdered and emptied out of their country, forced out of their country. In addition, this bombing goes way beyond degrading Milosevic's military capacity.

So I call on my colleagues to seriously consider a very thorough, honest, serious debate about the war in Kosovo, about where we are, and where we need to go. I don't think any of the options are good. I don't want us to leave and abandon the people. I want the people to be able to go back to their country. I want there to be an international force, a militarized force, and I want people to rebuild lives. But I would like to see much more emphasis on what we need to do to pursue a diplomatic solution to this. I don't think there is any other alternative. It is not going to be the ground troops; it is not going to be Apache helicopters, apparently. I don't think it can be 5 or 6 more months of airstrikes.

So, again, I come to the floor today to call for a pause in the airstrikes, very focused, for 48 hours, with clear conditions, the emphasis being on a diplomatic solution to this military conflict.

I yield the floor.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, May 14, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,580,329,294,134.40 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty billion, three hundred twenty-nine million, two hundred ninety-four thousand, one hundred thirty-four dollars and forty cents).

One year ago, May 14, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,492,886,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-two billion, eight hundred eighty-six million).

Fifteen years ago, May 14, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,480,234,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty billion, two hundred thirty-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 14, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$469,667,000,000 (Four hundred sixty-nine billion, six hundred sixty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,110,662,294,134.40 (Five trillion, one hundred ten billion, six hundred sixty-two million, two hundred ninety-four thousand, one hundred thirty-four dollars and forty cents) during the past 25 years.

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-2996. A communication from Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reservists'

Education: Increase in Educational Assistance Rates" (RIN2900-AJ38), received May 12, 1999; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2997. A communication from the Director, Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2998. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicability of Buy American Clauses to Simplified Acquisitions" (DFARS Case 98-D031), received May 12, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2999. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Antiterrorism Training" (DFARS Case 96-D016), received May 12, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3000. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Department of Defense aviation accidents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3001. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants-Passport and Visa Waivers; Deletion of Obsolete Visa Procedures and other Minor Corrections", received May 11, 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3002. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the U.S.-Cuba migration agreements; to the Committee On Foreign Relations.

EC-3003. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Technology Administration Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3004. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the incidental capture of sea turtles in commercial shrimping operations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3005. A communication from the Acting Association Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the rule entitled "Small Disadvantaged Business Participation Evaluation and Incentives", received May 11, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3006. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Domestic Positive Passenger-Baggage Match Pilot Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3007. A communication from the Program Support Specialist, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model BAC 1-11 200 and 400 Series Airplanes; Docket No. 98-NM-307-AD; Amendment 39-11157; AD 99-10-03" (RIN2120-AA64), received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3008. A communication from the Program Support Specialist, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes; Docket No. 98-NM-308-AD; Amendment 39-11158; AD 99-10-04" (RIN2120-AA64), received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3009. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Munds Park, Arizona)", (MM Docket No. 98-27 (RM-9188)), received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3010. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Kosciusko, Goodman and Decatur, Mississippi)" (MM Docket No. 98-154 (RM-9174; RM-9394)), received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3011. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Hamilton, Meridian and Marble Falls, Texas)" (MM Docket No. 97-174), received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3012. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Des Moines, Iowa and Bennington, Nebraska)" (MM Docket No. 98-187), received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3013. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Palestine and Frankston, TX)" (MM Docket No. 98-37; RM-9238), received April 19, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3014. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Wasilla, Anchorage and Sterling, Alaska)" (MM Docket No. 97-227 (RM-9159; RM-9229; RM-9230)) received April 19, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3015. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Condon, Oregon)" (MM Docket No. 97-173), received April 19, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3016. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcasting Stations (Hawesville and Whitesville, Kentucky)" (MM Docket No.

98-2), received April 19, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3017. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Agricultural Fair Practices Enforcement Authority Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3018. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees for Applications for Contract Market Designation, Audits of Leverage Transaction Merchants, and Reviews of the Rule Enforcement Programs of Contract Markets and Registered Futures Associations", received May 4, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3019. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Establishment of Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 1998-99 Marketing Year—FV99-982-1 FIR", received April 30, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3020. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Modification to Handler Membership on the California Olive Committee—FV99-932-2 FIR", received April 30, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3021. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dried Prunes Produced in California; Undersized Regulation for the 1999-2000 Crop Year—FV99-993-2 FR", received May 5, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3022. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Melons Grown in South Texas; Change in Container Regulation—FV99-979-1 IFR", received May 5, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3023. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cranberries Grown in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Long Island in the State of New York—Temporary Suspension of a Provision on Producer Continuance Referenda Under the Cranberry Marketing Order—FV99-929-1 IFR", received May 11, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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-113. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to child labor; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 118

Whereas, many children in developing countries, or in countries that are in transition to a market economy, are employed in the export sector, especially plantations and the textile, garment, footwear, and sporting goods industries; and

Whereas, many of these child workers are subject to inhumane and hazardous working conditions, including slavery, debt bondage, child prostitution and sexual abuse and are usually badly paid, if at all; and

Whereas, the International Labor Organization has developed and tested a survey methodology which estimates that a total of 250 million children worldwide are working; half of these children between the ages of five and fourteen are working full time and at least one-third are performing dangerous work; and

Whereas, according to International Labor Organization statistics, 61 percent of all working children or nearly 153 million are found in Asia, 32 percent or 80 million are in Africa, and 7 percent or 17.5 million live in Latin America; and

Whereas, even though Asia has the largest total number of child workers, Africa has the highest proportion of its minors working—40 percent of the children between the ages of 5 and 14; and

Whereas, although poverty is the most important reason for child labor, followed by lack of schooling and illiteracy, oftentimes social traditions explain the persistence of child labor; and

Whereas, furthermore, because of different cultural and economic traditions among nations, there is not a generally accepted minimum age for work, and even the concept of "work" is defined or interpreted differently among countries; and

Whereas, for example, not all work done by children can be defined as child labor; in many societies, children who work along with their parents are viewed as learning to live in society; and apprenticeships are seen as part of a young person's education and preparation for a livelihood; and

Whereas, work by children clearly becomes child labor, however, if the work being performed is "harmful to [a child's] physical or mental health, safety, and development"; and

Whereas, several international organizations have made eradication of child labor a priority; and

Whereas, in 1989, the United Nations approved the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely subscribed international convention in history, which includes general restrictions on child labor; and

Whereas, Article 32 of the Convention recognized "the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development"; and

Whereas, the International Labor Organization, has adopted a number of conventions restricting the work of minors, including Convention No. 138 (1973), entitled "Minimum Age for Admission to Employment," which sets the following minimum age requirements: age 15 or not less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling, if higher than 15, for admission to employment of work; and age 18 for hazardous work; and

Whereas, these age limits are written into the national legislation of countries that formally agree on the Minimum Age Convention; and

Whereas, despite these efforts, the problem of child labor persists; and