

Mass Destruction which filed its report yesterday with copies to the President and to the legislative leaders.

This Commission was established by legislation under the Intelligence Authorization Act signed into law in October of 1996 when I chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee. This legislation was designed to deal with the enormous threat posed to the United States by weapons of mass destruction.

When I chaired the Intelligence Committee in 1995 and 1996, I was aghast at the kinds of problems which I saw with respect to rogue nations having ballistic capabilities for the delivery of nuclear weapons. Since that time, it has been publicly commented that North Korea has nuclear capability; that they have trajectory and ballistic capability to reach parts of the United States; that they pose an enormous threat. It is well known that other rogue nations seek ballistic capability as well. We now find that a nuclear device can be carried across national borders in a suitcase. We have seen in the experience of the Tokyo subway catastrophe the potential for biological and chemical warfare.

Those capabilities are so important that there needs to be preventive action to deal with them in advance of a catastrophe. Regrettably, our Government customarily reacts, instead of acting in anticipation.

The Commission was formed because there are now some 96 separate agencies dealing with weapons of mass destruction, and the Commission filed in its report a recommendation urging Presidential action with the suggestion that the authority be concentrated in the hands of the Vice President. There have been jurisdictional disputes, turf battles, but the Vice President would have the clout to adjudicate disputes and to coordinate the efforts on this matter of such enormous national and international importance.

The Commission recommended providing staffing, with a director to the National Security Council, a top level position, to preside over a council of representatives from the various Departments—State, Energy, Defense, Commerce, et cetera—with ranking officials who have been confirmed by the Senate.

One of the key recommendations of the Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction was to mandate electronic filing on export items which are in the category that they could provide component parts for weapons of mass destruction.

My staff, Dobie McArthur, has already taken the lead in circulating this legislation among a number of Senators. We have had a favorable response from Senator HELMS and Senator BIDEN, chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee. There is an excellent opportunity that this provision could be included in a markup of Foreign Relations this month. As noted earlier, Senator DORGAN and Senator SCHUMER have also joined as cosponsors.

What this legislation does is to provide for the electronic filing of what is known and currently required as a shipper's export declaration. In 1995, the Customs Service and the Census Bureau created the automated export system, but that system has been utilized by only about 10 percent of the filers.

This legislation provides that the electronic filing requirement would come into operation 180 days after the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Treasury certify that a secure Internet-based filing system is up and running. The requirements would be directed toward components which could be used in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

The problem is illustrated by action taken by Iraq in the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. In a very sophisticated way, when Iraq was purchasing its component parts, instead of buying them all at one time and all from a single supplier, or quite a number of items from a single supplier a few times, the Iraqis would buy an item here, an item there, an item somewhere else, from a wide variety of suppliers, so it was impossible, without some tracking system, to find out exactly what Iraq was doing as they were acquiring these components for weapons of mass destruction.

As we all know, there is dual use on many of these items; that is to say, they can be used for peaceful purposes or they can be used for putting together weapons of mass destruction. In this way, with a sophisticated system, a purchaser may acquire the ingredients to produce weapons of mass destruction.

Electronic filing will put the matter all under one umbrella. Without undue burden on shippers, there can be a determination as to what is being purchased which has the potential for being turned into a nuclear weapon, a biological weapon, or a chemical weapon of mass destruction.

Mr. President, how much time remains on my allotment of 15 minutes?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Six minutes 14 seconds.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I will use that time on another subject of currency and importance.

GATHERING EVIDENCE FOR THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the War Crimes Tribunal, which was created by United Nations resolution for prosecuting crimes against humanity arising in the former Yugoslavia, has brought very significant indictments out of the events in Bosnia. There have been indictments; there have been some convictions. The work of the War Crimes Tribunal has taken on even greater significance as a result of what has happened in the war with Kosovo, with the very noteworthy and important indictment against President Milosevic of Yugoslavia.

The Tribunal is now in the process of gathering evidence in Kosovo. Justice Louise Arbour, who is head of the War Crimes Tribunal and has given notice of her intention to leave to become a justice in the Canadian judicial system, visited the Senate back on April 30, 1999. She met with a group of Senators, including myself, and pointed out the need for the acquisition of evidence.

There had been a preliminary allocation of some \$5 million. That was supplemented in the emergency appropriations bill with the direction for an additional \$13 million, for a total of \$18 million to go towards the Tribunal.

The FBI dispatched a group of investigators to acquire evidence in Kosovo, but they have run out of money. Those funds, I believe, are available in the Department of State. I have discussed this matter with the FBI Director Louis Freeh. I compliment the FBI and Director Freeh for their very prompt action in going to Kosovo to gather evidence.

From my own experience as district attorney of Philadelphia, I can personally attest to the fact that evidence has to be acquired when it is fresh. If you do not get it with immediacy, it disappears.

A part of the evidence acquisition has been to question women who were subjected to rape. In conversations with officials of the State Department yesterday, I found that the \$50 million which has been appropriated for the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees has not been released. So there is an urgency in making those funds available for a variety of purposes, including a substantial part of the \$50 million to give attention to the women who have been rape victims—in part to counsel them for their own mental health and in significant part to acquire their testimony in the prosecution of those violent perpetrators of the rapes.

So I make these comments and urge that we move ahead with this funding which has been authorized by the Congress, \$50 million to the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees, and also urge that funding be provided in accordance with the direction of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill so the FBI can have the funding to proceed immediately to Kosovo to gather this very important evidence.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Will the Senator from Pennsylvania yield for a question?

Mr. SPECTER. I will.

Ms. MIKULSKI. First, I congratulate the Senator from Pennsylvania on his leadership in this area. As he knows, we have worked together, but he has certainly been in the forefront on the war crimes issue in particular, the issue of rape as a war crime. We thank him for that.

Does the Senator from Pennsylvania know why the money is not being released?

Mr. SPECTER. I thank my distinguished colleague from Maryland for those kind remarks.

In response, I am advised by officials of the State Department that early on were some problems in the United Nations agency. There is chaos, as one might expect, in Kosovo. The Kosovars are returning to their homes. Some have raised a point that the money was not being officially utilized. I have been advised by the State Department that the issue has now been corrected; so when I made inquiries of the State Department yesterday to liberate \$2 million for the FBI, I was told that they had this collateral problem and have begun discussions on the matter with our appropriate colleagues to get the funds released.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Just for a point of information and clarification back to the Senator from Pennsylvania, in a meeting yesterday with the women of the Senate—a bipartisan meeting, I might add—I believe we were told there is a hold on this among our colleagues. Perhaps we can work together to lift that hold to ensure that the bureaucracy concerns are dealt with so we can go on with the mutual humanitarian concerns that I know we share on both sides of the aisle.

Again, I thank the Senator for his leadership on this in the most sincere, kind way.

Mr. SPECTER. If I may respond, that is consistent with what I was told. I did not want to use the expression "hold" because of the pejorative connotation in this Chamber. I made the same point by saying that there were obstacles to getting the funds released. But I think it is a matter of enormous importance. I am glad to hear the bipartisan group of women were meeting yesterday to exercise their leadership. This business about crimes against humanity and rape is just horrendous. We have to act, and act promptly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Under the previous order, the Senator from West Virginia is now recognized for 15 minutes.

THE STEEL IMPORT CRISIS: ANOTHER 1,800 U.S. JOBS AT RISK

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

For months now, I and many of my colleagues, including the very distinguished senior Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER, have been alerting this Congress to the devastating nature of the steel import crisis that has plagued this Nation since the end of 1997.

A year and a half later, in yesterday's Wheeling Intelligencer headlines, we see the statement: "Sixth Steelmaker Claims Bankruptcy." Let me repeat that headline from the Wheeling, WV, newspaper: a sixth U.S. steel mill has declared bankruptcy.

With that announcement, U.S. steelworkers in West Virginia, and else-

where, are wondering when the Clinton administration and this Congress will realize that enough is enough. I have no doubt that the 1,800 people who are employed at Gulf States Steel, Inc., in Gadsden, AL—the sixth U.S. steel mill to declare bankruptcy since the steel import crisis began—are also wondering why no one is acting on a long-term basis to prevent the illegal steel dumping that has jeopardized their jobs.

I say enough is enough. Six companies declare bankruptcy, more than 6,200 jobs are jeopardized, and this Administration and this Congress still fail to act:

- 1,800 jobs in Gadsden, Alabama;
- 200 jobs in Alton, Illinois;
- 140 jobs in Holsapple, Pennsylvania;
- 2,400 jobs in Vineyard, Utah; and
- 540 jobs in Washington, Pennsylvania, and Massillon, Ohio.

For those who believe that the steel industry is not in difficulty, tell it to these families. Tell it to those workers who have lost their jobs. These men and women and their families are the human faces of the steel crisis. They are not just numbers. They are not just statistics. These are real faces. These are real men and women. These are real children of the steel crisis.

While we do nothing, the list of the victims of the steel import crisis grows ever longer. I hear from U.S. steelworkers. They want to know how many more bankruptcies it will take to make the President of the United States and the Congress understand that immediate action must be taken against the tide of cheap and illegal steel imports into this country. How many more U.S. jobs must be lost before we tell our trading partners that enough is enough?

We already know that there will be no quota bill passed by this Congress. The House passed a quota bill. The Senate has not passed a quota bill and will not pass a quota bill. Penalties are not likely against Brazil and Russia, even though the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission found them to be guilty of dumping steel illegally on American shores. Instead of finding a long-term, global solution, this administration chooses to promote piecemeal solutions and negotiate suspension agreements with those two countries. Changes in U.S. trade laws to strengthen enforcement seem even more unlikely.

According to the Wheeling, WV, Intelligencer, the U.S. steel industry is still holding on to the thin hope that the steel loan guarantee program, which the Senate has already approved twice, will quickly, hopefully, be approved in the House of Representatives. While this is only a short-term program to help U.S. steel mills that have been hurt by the steel import crisis, I thank my colleagues for passing the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program, authored by me, and a similar program, the Emergency Oil and Gas

Guaranteed Loan Program, authored by Senator DOMENICCI.

On June 21, the Senate requested a conference with the House on H.R. 1664, which contains the steel loan guarantee and the oil and gas loan guarantee, and conferees have been appointed by the Senate. I am hopeful that this conference will take place soon, and we have every right to expect that that conference will take place soon.

There was a commitment entered into not too long ago, at the time the emergency supplemental appropriations bill was in conference between the two Houses. A commitment was entered into by the leadership of both the House and Senate to call up the bill in the Senate. That was done. The majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader kept their commitments. The bill was called up in the Senate, and the steel loan guarantee program and the oil and gas loan guarantee program were passed by the Senate for the second time and sent to the House. It is to be expected that a conference will take place, as the Senate has requested. Hopefully, that conference will then meet and act, and act quickly, and hopefully, further, both Houses will quickly adopt a conference report and send it on to the President for his signature.

Illegal steel dumping has created exigent circumstances for the U.S. steel industry, and the loan guarantees will provide help to companies, small and middle-sized steel companies that employ thousands of hard-working Americans. These loan guarantees would work through the private market, help to sustain good-paying jobs, support our national security, and save taxpayers millions of dollars from lost tax revenues and increased public assistance payments for things such as unemployment compensation, food stamps, and worker retraining.

The fate of the loan programs rests today in the hands of the U.S. House of Representatives. With great respect, I urge the House to act quickly. On behalf of U.S. steel mills and U.S. steelworkers, for those 1,800 steelworkers at great risk with Gulf States Steel in Alabama, for the thousands of other steelworkers and their families across the country who cry out for help, I urge the other body to take action and to support the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 5 minutes 28 seconds remaining.

Mr. BYRD. Does the distinguished Senator from Alabama wish time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could interrupt my friend from West Virginia, the Senator from Maine has requested 5 minutes and there isn't time left for that unless he would yield to the Senator. Otherwise, she would—

Mr. BYRD. I would be very happy to yield to the Senator. First, I would like