

strength and the nuclear power to destroy our way of life is Russia. They still have thousands of nuclear weapons. We ought to engage with them in an aggressive START III negotiation and continue the progress of bringing down the number of nuclear weapons in the two major nuclear superpowers—Russia and the United States. We ought to continue that.

I know we have people here who don't sleep at night because they are worried that North Korea might threaten a small slice of the United States. But they should realize that, No. 1 A national missile defense, if deployed, will be horribly costly. No. 2, it will not protect this country against this kind of a threat. Those people say to the American people that Congress will fund a national missile defense program to defend against a rogue nation—North Korea, they suggest, Iraq or Iran. The fact is, the least likely threat that a rogue nation would have access to is an intercontinental ballistic missile. If it acquires access to a nuclear weapon, it is far more likely to deploy it as a suitcase bomb put in the trunk of a rusty Yugo car at a dock in New York City, rather than putting it on the tip of an intercontinental ballistic missile and having any notion of being able to fire it with accuracy.

It is much more likely they would acquire a cruise missile, which would be easier to acquire, much less costly, and not as technically difficult to deploy. Of course, the national missile defense system wouldn't do anything to defend against that. It is much more likely a rogue nation would find it more attractive to use a deadly vial of chemical or biological agents to threaten a superpower.

We face a myriad of threats. There is no question about that. The biggest threat, in my judgment, is this country stepping away from its responsibility to lead and stop the spread of nuclear weapons around the world, and this country stepping away from its responsibility to decrease the number of nuclear weapons and decrease the launchers and delivery systems for those nuclear weapons.

My fervent hope is that we will agree that last year's vote by which the Senate defeated ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty should not signal to anyone in the world that this country is no longer interested in these issues. We must decide again, even though there is not an appetite by some in the Senate to do so, we must decide again that leadership in arms control is this country's responsibility. It is upon our shoulders that this responsibility falls. No one else can exert this leadership with the capability of the United States.

If we don't exert leadership, what we will end up building new nuclear weapons, building new defensive systems. We will start a new arms race. We will see more spending on nuclear weapons by China. We will see more spending on offensive weapons by Russia. We will

see other countries joining the nuclear club because they will believe they should acquire nuclear weapons to represent their interests. We will see our allies depart from us on these issues because they believe abrogation of the ABM Treaty is very unwise.

I think the majority of the American people believe the biggest threat to our future is the nuclear threat, the threat of a nuclear attack by an ever-increasing number of countries who acquire nuclear weapons.

We know what works. Arms control works, negotiation works, destroying another superpower's bombers through negotiation by sawing off the wings, dismantling submarines that carry nuclear weapons: we know that works. It is far better to do that than to engage in the horror of a nuclear war from which this world will not, in my judgment, survive.

Think for a moment about the devastation visited upon Nagasaki and Hiroshima and go back to what I discussed earlier—the reduction in 6,000 nuclear warheads that has been negotiated and accomplished. That is just the first step, a big step, but just the first step. It represents the reduction in nuclear warheads equivalent to 175,000 bombs the size of the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima.

The reason I come to the floor at the end of the day is simply to say we ought not take any pride as a country in seeing an article in the press of the United States suggesting somehow we have lost our will to lead on this issue. We can come to the floor and debate 100 things in 100 days. Some of them are big; some of them are small. None are more important, in my judgment, than addressing the issue of the spread of nuclear weapons. Just because we have people now serving in Congress who have an unending appetite to keep building new weapons, an unending appetite to spend more money on new weapons, does not mean those who believe in arms control and believe real progress in arms control will make this a safer world in which to live, should step aside and say: Yes, you win; go build your weapons.

We ought not do that, but we ought to wage the fight for a safer world by having this country exhibit the leadership it needs to exhibit, that it should responsibly exhibit, for the safety of all the people who live in this world.

I will have more to say about this subject at another time. But on the eve of the meeting of the NPT Review Conference in New York, I wanted to talk about these issues. I want to say that some in Congress believe very strongly and feel very deeply the future of our children and grandchildren and the future of this country rests on those who believe in arms control prevailing in this Senate, despite the recent events, despite the debate we have heard in the last couple of years. This issue is not over. Those of us who believe as I do are not going to go away. We hope this country will assume some sensible

mantle of leadership in this important area.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for 7 minutes.

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

THE NUCLEAR WASTE BILL

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I understand at this time the President is considering vetoing the nuclear waste bill that passed here by a substantial majority. That is very troubling to me. It is time for us to dispose of nuclear waste. We have the capability. The citizens of America, through their electric bills, have paid billions of dollars to build this waste disposal area out in the Nevada desert to place this nuclear waste—which is not explosive. It is simply radioactive and it is placed in the right kind of containers and will be placed in the ground of the desert of Nevada where we exploded 1,000 bombs on top of the ground in developing our nuclear bombing capability. But every nuclear electric-generating plant in America produces some waste. That waste is being stored on site. We agreed some years ago to create this fund and to store this waste. Now, every time we come to this Senate, every time this debate comes up for a vote, a majority votes for it and the President ends up vetoing it and we fall just short of the number of votes to override that veto.

Through an unusual number of circumstances, I have become somewhat familiar with the concerns involving energy and nuclear power in America. I formed a very clear opinion of what we have to do if we are going to meet the demands for power and the demand to clean up the atmosphere. The Kyoto treaty, which the President signed and the Vice President supported, the executive branch made an amazing agreement that we would reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from 1990 levels by 2012 or 2010—the exact year escapes me.

Since that time, our demand for energy has increased. Since 1990, our emissions of greenhouse gases have increased by 8 percent. By the year 2012, if we were to comply with the agreement the President tried to commit us to, we would have to reduce, from this day, 15 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions when we know our demands for energy are going to increase between now and 2010. This is a box we cannot get out of; not under present plans.

There was a marvelous 2-hour show on Sunday night on public television's "Frontline" on greenhouse gases and the potential of global warming. They went over all the issues at that time. I think it was tilted slightly more than the science indicates that we are in a period of global warming, but it does appear we may be. We need to be thinking about that. But the scientists and

experts I have talked with say we cannot meet those goals without nuclear power.

Mr. President, 20 percent of the electricity in this country is produced by nuclear power, but we have not approved a new plant since the 1970s. France has over 60 percent—soon to be 80 percent—of its power generated by nuclear power. Japan also has a large percentage generated by it. In the United States, we have never lost a life as a result of nuclear power. Nuclear power produces, as you know, no pollution for the atmosphere—zero. Huge amounts—20 percent—of our electric power is produced by nuclear power with no emissions out there.

We have a crisis in our energy policy with regard to fuel oil and our domestic production since 1992, when this administration took office. The reason I am talking about that is I believe there is a no-growth, antienergy policy that is made a part of our American policy under the Clinton-Gore administration. They do not believe in production of greater amounts of energy. We have reduced our domestic production of oil by 17 percent since 1992. Yet our demand for oil and gasoline has increased 14 percent. That is a shocking figure. That is why we are so much more dependent on the Middle East, OPEC, for oil and gas. That is why they are able to demand higher prices. Maybe the gas companies added a few cents on a gallon, but almost all of that was a direct result of their demand for oil from the Middle East and Venezuela and the OPEC nations, and we virtually pay double for it.

What that means is if your gasoline has gone up from \$1 to \$1.45 at the gas pump, that extra 45 cents is going outside of America to one of these OPEC nations. It is a drain on the wealth of this country, and I submit it does suggest it could threaten the economic prosperity we are enjoying today.

How can we meet our environmental goals? How can we do that without thinking broadly about what is occurring? We heard recently the Vice President saying, with regard to nuclear power, that he does not support an increased reliance on nuclear power for electricity generation. He does not support an increased reliance on nuclear power for electricity generation, but he would keep open the option of relicensing existing nuclear plants. I think that is a stunning statement. That is a no-growth policy. We are going to limit greenhouse emissions but we are not going to allow any increase in nuclear power.

Another one of his stunning proposals is to not drill any further for natural gas in the deep Gulf of Mexico. There are great reserves of natural gas there. Natural gas, even if it breaks out of our pipeline, does not pollute as does oil. It is not sticky. It evaporates. It is not a real dangerous pollutant. And when it burns, it is the most efficient burning of all fossil fuels and produces the least amount of pollution. If

we move to a cleaner energy source, natural gas is it. But the Vice President, who opposes nuclear power, now is opposing drilling for natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico. That he explicitly stated during his campaign in New Hampshire. In fact, he said he would consider rolling back the leases that have already been issued. So this is a dangerous time for us.

I hope we are not moving to make unwise decisions that would, in effect, result in the drying up of our supply of energy and raising the price of energy for every American and having that money go overseas to foreign nations. We need to produce more nuclear power. I will be talking more about that in the future.

My plea is to the President: Do not veto this bill. Let's keep America as a strong nuclear-powered country.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate, under the previous order, stands adjourned until 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 26, 2000.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:19 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, April 26, 2000, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 25, 2000:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIAN DEAN CURRAN, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI.

SHARON P. WILKINSON, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

MARK D. GEARAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

THE JUDICIARY

LINDA B. RIEGLE, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA VICE JOHNIE B. RAWLINSON, ELEVATED.

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK VICE THOMAS P. GRIESA, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DANIEL G. WEBBER, JR., OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA, VICE PATRICK M. RYAN, RESIGNED.

JOSE ANTONIO PEREZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS VICE MICHAEL R. RAMON, RESIGNED.

RUSSELL JOHN QUALLIOTINE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MARTIN JAMES BURKE.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 211:

To be lieutenant

JEFFREY D. KOTSON, 0000
SEAN P. GILL, 0000
CHRISTOPHER S. KEANE, 0000
CHRISTINE N. CUTTER, 0000
RICHARD R. BEYER, 0000
ANDREW J. NORRIS, 0000
SANDRA K. SELMAN, 0000
RACHEL E. CANTY, 0000
MARK W. SKOLNICKI, 0000
KENNETH D. DAHLIN, 0000

LEWIS FISHER, JR., 0000
ERIC A. BAUER, 0000
KEIRSTEN E. CURRENT, 0000
DARCIE A. GAARE, 0000
VICTOR S. MARSH, 0000
DENNIS C. MILLER, 0000
BERNARD J. SANDY, 0000
ROBERT J. CAMPBELL, 0000
JOSEPH M. ZWACK, 0000
PATRICIA T. MITROWSKI, 0000
CRAIG A. WYATT, 0000
LUCINDA J. BOOKHAMMER, 0000
CHRISTOPHER B. RANDOLPH, 0000
JESSE L. STEVENSON, 0000
MARILYNN J. NOBLE, 0000
DANA B. TYNDALE, 0000
STACEY MERSEL, 0000
JOSE A. QUINONESQUINTANA, 0000
STEFANIE A. BARLIS, 0000
YVONNE E. NIENHUIS, 0000
AMY M. BEACH, 0000
SCOTT L. JOHNSON, 0000
DAVID C. WELCH, 0000
TROY L. SHAFFER, 0000
LOUIE C. PARKS, JR., 0000
BRIAN L. MELVIN, 0000
ANNE J. ODEGAARD, 0000
MICHAEL P. GROSS, 0000
ROXANNE TAMEZ, 0000
RICHARD D. MOLLOY, 0000
ALFORD L. DANZY, 0000
JEROME SURLS, 0000
CARI M. FIELD, 0000
JASON M. KRAJEWSKI, 0000
SEAN M. KELLY, 0000
DANA M. CASWELL, 0000
JOHN B. HALL, 0000
DOMINIQUE T. SAMONTE, 0000
ROBERT D. MUTTO, 0000
ERIK J. JENSEN, 0000
KEVIN C. ULLRICH, 0000
FELIX E. DELGADO, 0000
JOHN F. BARRESI, 0000

To be lieutenant (junior grade)

BRUCE C. BROWN, 0000
SIMONE S. BRISCO, 0000
CHRISTOPHER T. ONEIL, 0000
TYRONE L. JONES, JR., 0000
ROBERT L. HELTON, 0000
ROBYN A. SHAVERS, 0000
KEELN S. DARST, 0000
SCOTT S. DARST, 0000
CAROLYN M. BEATTY, 0000
DAVID M. WEBB, 0000
ROSEMARY P. FIRESTINE, 0000
THERESA A. MORVAY, 0000
JOSEPH T. MCGILLEY, 0000
SUSAN M. MAITRE, 0000
LAURA E. KING, 0000
JENNIFER S. FALACY, 0000
MAGGIE A. MCGOWAN, 0000
KENNETH J. WASHINGTON, 0000
CRAIG M. JARAMILLO, 0000
BRUCE K. WALKER, 0000
FRANK J. FERRITO, 0000
DANIEL H. LYNN, 0000
MICHAEL J. DAPONTE, 0000
THOMAS L. BOYLES, 0000
GEORGE A. RUWISCH, 0000
STEPHEN A. LOVE, 0000
JOSEPH R. BOWES III, 0000
PAMELA D. HOCKADAY, 0000
RYAN D. ALLAIN, 0000
KENDALL L. SANDERSON, 0000
JOHN P. DEBOK, 0000
SCOTT T. HIGMAN, 0000
TINA L. URBAN, 0000
JOSE A. FENA, 0000
ANGELA L. COOPER, 0000
LAMONT S. BAZEMORE, 0000
VIVIANNE W. LOUIE, 0000
TARA D. PETTIT, 0000
JASON B. FLENNY, 0000
KATHLEEN A. MOSKAL, 0000
CHANCE C. GREEN, 0000
CASSANDRA A. WALBERT, 0000
COLLEEN M. OBRIEN, 0000
JOHN A. NATALE, 0000
LISA M. HOULIHAN, 0000
MICHELE A. WOODRUFF, 0000
ROBERT W. MITCHUM, 0000
MARK M. DRIVER, 0000
SUZANNE M. MCNALLY, 0000
BRIAN E. MOORE, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. BOES, 0000
GREG J. METTE, 0000
LANCE J. MAYFIELD, 0000
ROCKLYN L. MCNAIR, 0000
DAVID F. SANDAHL, 0000
KEITH D. RAUCH, JR., 0000
LISA H. DEGROOT, 0000
WILLIAM M. NUNES, 0000
KELLEY R. NICHOLSON, 0000
PAUL D. MURPHY, 0000
STEPHEN M. SNYDER, 0000
DANNY G. SHAW, 0000
KIM DONADIO, 0000
KENNETH VAZQUEZ, 0000
MARK A. BOTTIGLIERI, 0000
JOHN E. HALLMAN, 0000
CLINTON S. CARLSON, 0000
TED C. MERCHANT, 0000
MARK J. SHEPARD, 0000
JEFF M. APARICIO, 0000
ROBERTO H. TORRES, 0000