

So I say it is the right thing to do. I have enjoyed being there, enjoyed meeting our troops. I do not want to do anything that would hurt them. But I am not one who believes we have to sit here and get a letter from General Wesley Clark and hide under the table. He did not get elected. He does not have the responsibility to make choices among health insurance, defense, and criminal justice, as we do. He does not have to go back to his voters and explain why it is in our critical national interest that their young men and women are committed around the globe, as we do.

I believe we can improve this commitment. I believe we can improve our effort in the world if we talk about these issues more openly. I believe this bill will lead us in that direction and I support it. I am proud to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I do not want this issue to come up tomorrow at the markup on the defense bill, so I am doing this tonight so there is no misunderstanding.

Not long after visiting Joint Interagency Task Force East an learning of the lack of readiness in the maritime patrol aircraft fleet, I made a second trip to Joint Interagency Task Force West and Coast Guard Pacific Area to determine whether this was a nationwide problem, or simply a problem of resource allocation.

Unfortunately, what I learned is that the Coast Guard is in dire need of additional maritime patrol aircraft to backfill, supplement, and expand the Coast Guard capability to meet the many defense-related, drug interdiction, maritime enforcement and protection, and other aviation related missions.

This amendment, which has been cleared on both sides of the aisle, is a first step toward addressing this glaring deficiency in our operational readiness in Coast Guard maritime patrolling capability.

This amendment provides for the acquisition of six C-130J aircraft which will provide a unit size capability and allow the better allocation of all Coast Guard maritime patrol aircraft resources nationwide.

I send the amendment to the desk and ask that it be considered as part of the managers' package when it is presented.

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

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I applaud the Stevens/Coverdell amendment submitted tonight by the Senator from Alaska, appropriating funds for six C-130Js for the Coast Guard. Senator STEVENS knows first hand of the Coast Guard's need for additional maritime patrol aircraft to meet the multiple aviation missions with which they are tasked. Through my close work with the Coast Guard and their efforts in our nation's war on drugs, I

have also seen the need for these planes.

In 1998, Senator DEWINE and I introduced the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act which restored a balanced drug control strategy by renewing our nation's commitment to international drug eradication and interdiction efforts. A crucial component of this strategy is the work the Coast Guard performs in guarding America's shores from drug dealers. One of the many areas the Coast Guard identified as needing improvement to fulfill this mission was their maritime patrol aircraft fleet. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Loy said, in reference to the demands placed on the C-130 "We've lost a full 25 percent or our availability while piling on additional mission requirements." It should also be noted that the Coast Guard flies their C-130s a third more hours than do the military services each year and the services own significantly more C-130s than the Coast Guard does.

Mr. President, the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act passed the Congress just two years ago and now, through this amendment Senator DEWINE and I have cosponsored with Senator STEVENS, we are seeing the fruits of that effort. I am pleased to see that Congress is working to help the Coast Guard meet its many missions, particularly its efforts to end the scourge of illegal drugs plaguing this country.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, yesterday, the United States Senate took a procedural vote on Senator DASCHLE's amendment to S. 2521, the military construction appropriations bill. Senator DASCHLE lost this procedural vote by 42-54.

I did not support the Daschle amendment at that time because it was a procedural amendment to an unrelated bill. This unrelated Daschle amendment kept the Senate away all day from the important business of the military construction appropriations bill. In addition, it appeared that the Daschle amendment might indefinitely delay consideration of this important bill. As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have a responsibility to secure passage of the important military construction appropriations bill. This bill provides critically needed funding for military construction projects, improves the quality of life for the men and women who are serving our country in the armed forces, and sustains the readiness of our armed forces. These areas are traditionally underfunded, and this bill provides the necessary funds to help make up for this shortfall. For these reasons, I did not support the Daschle amendment when it came before me on a procedural vote on May 16, 2000.

Subsequent to the procedural vote on the Daschle amendment on May 16, 2000, Senators LOTT and DASCHLE reached an agreement to have two up or down votes—one on the aforementioned Daschle amendment and an-

other on an amendment to be offered by Senator LOTT. Under the agreement, debate on the amendments was limited by a time agreement.

Once this leadership agreement was reached, it became apparent that the Daschle amendment would no longer indefinitely delay the military construction appropriations bill. Therefore, my previous objections to this amendment were no longer relevant.

The Daschle amendment is a sense-of-the-Senate amendment. After stating a number of findings, the amendment states, among other things, that it is the sense of the Senate that "Congress should immediately pass a conference report to accompany" the juvenile justice bill that includes the Senate passed gun-related provisions.

During the Senate's debate of the juvenile justice bill in May of 1999, I supported the Lautenberg amendment, and other amendments to close the gun show loophole in the Brady act. I also supported an amendment to require licensed firearm dealers to provide a secure gun storage or safety device when a handgun is sold, delivered or transferred. Unfortunately, the juvenile justice bill has been locked in a House and Senate conference committee.

I remain firm in my stance on these issues. I certainly hope that House and Senate conferees can reach an agreement in conference on the juvenile justice bill. And I will continue to support the common sense gun provisions that passed the Senate during the juvenile justice debate. I believe the Senate passed gun-related amendments to the juvenile justice bill will help keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons and increase public safety without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens. Therefore, when it became clear that the Daschle amendment would not indefinitely delay consideration of the military construction appropriations bill, I supported this amendment.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING ROD DEHAVEN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, it is a great honor for me to represent the people of South Dakota in the United States Senate. On occasion, I have the opportunity to recognize individual South Dakotans for their accomplishments, and, today, it brings me great pleasure to focus the attention of everyone in this chamber on one of South Dakota's most talented and determined athletes.

Rod DeHaven, a native of Huron, South Dakota, and a graduate of South Dakota State University, won the U.S.

Olympic Marathon Trials last week in Pittsburgh. Braving eighty degree temperatures and high humidity, Rod fought off the sweltering weather and his competition and completed the race in just over two hours and fifteen minutes. Rod's incredible effort and inspiring victory in Pittsburgh earned him a spot on our Olympic team, and later this year he will travel to Sydney, Australia, to represent the United States in the marathon in the 2000 Olympic games.

Anyone who has ever trained for or run a marathon can tell you without equivocation that the work required to put them in a position just to finish the twenty-six mile race is exceptional. Having run my first marathon last year, I can only imagine the extraordinary effort it must take to compete and win at the national and international level. Rod DeHaven—who, in addition to training for marathons and working full-time as a computer programmer—is also raising two young children with his wife, Shelli, clearly has the work ethic it takes to be a great long-distance runner.

Last week in Pittsburgh, however, Rod proved that he had much more than just a strong work ethic. In outrunning some of this country's toughest competitors in extremely difficult conditions, he also proved that he has the heart and courage of a champion.

Rod learned what it takes to be a champion growing up in South Dakota. As a member of the Huron Tigers cross-country and track teams in the eighties, Rod was a cross country state champion in the fall of 1983, and in track, he was state champion in the mile, two-mile and two-mile relay in both 1983 and 1984. Rod attended college at South Dakota State University where he won the North Central Conference cross country championships as a freshman and the NCAA Division II indoor 1500 meter championship as a sophomore.

South Dakota has produced some tremendous long distance runners through the years, and Rod DeHaven is the latest in that great line. In 1964, another young man from South Dakota named Billy Mills stunned the world with his remarkable victory in the 10,000 meters in the Tokyo Olympics. Billy's story became legendary, and it is no surprise that in a state known for hard work, we are now sending another one of our best to compete in one of the Olympic Game's most challenging and difficult events.

All of South Dakota is pulling for Rod DeHaven as he heads to Sydney, and we wish him the best of luck as he strives to be the next gold medal winner from our great state.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 15, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,669,366,486,429.39 (Five trillion, six

hundred sixty-nine billion, three hundred sixty-six million, four hundred eighty-six thousand, four hundred twenty-nine dollars and thirty-nine cents).

Five years ago, May 15, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,882,765,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-two billion, seven hundred sixty-five million).

Ten years ago, May 15, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,092,310,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-two billion, three hundred ten million).

Fifteen years ago, May 15, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,752,019,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty-two billion, nineteen million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 15, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$520,109,000,000 (Five hundred twenty billion, one hundred nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,149,257,486,429.39 (Five trillion, one hundred forty-nine billion, two hundred fifty-seven million, four hundred eighty-six thousand, four hundred twenty-nine dollars and thirty-nine cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FIRST PLACE ESSAY WINNER ADRIENNE MAXWELL

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the achievements of an outstanding student from Somers, Montana. Each year the American Association of University Women—Montana sponsors an essay contest for high school students in grades 10-12. The subject of this essay contest is "Women in Montana." Students are to research and write about Montana women who have contributed to the quality of life of this wonderful State.

This year's top essay was written by Adrienne Maxwell, an outstanding young woman attending Flathead High School. Her essay was chosen the best of all those in Montana and received first place in the contest. She writes about her mother, an immigrant who is no stranger to sacrifice and struggles, but believes through hard work comes triumph. Her essay tells the story of a woman with the true spirit, drive, and determination to achieve her goals while making a home for her family in a new land and never failing to give generously back to her community.

I am pleased to acknowledge, on behalf of all Montanans, Adrienne Maxwell's achievement and ask that her essay "Katherine Maxwell: A Montana Immigrant" be printed in the RECORD. KATHERINE MAXWELL: A MONTANA IMMIGRANT (By Adrienne Maxwell)

The first women to come to Montana were often immigrants from other lands. They left their homes, knowing they would probably never again see the friends and relatives they left behind. Once here, they worked hard every day, to make a good life for their

families. My mother, Katherine Maxwell, is an immigrant as well, though she arrived in Montana in 1983 and not 1883. She did not face life on the frontier, but has shown some of the same qualities of hard work and determination to succeed shown by early Montana women.

As a child in Upper Hutt, New Zealand, Katherine developed a strong work ethic at a young age with the encouragement of her strict, yet supportive parents. The oldest of four children, she was expected to always do her best at school and to do her chores well, and with a good attitude. Her dad was the manager of Carey's department store. In fact, Carey's was where Katherine began working, at age twelve, doing small jobs in the back warehouse. As soon as she reached the legal age of fifteen, she worked during school vacations as a shop assistant. As the "boss' daughter", she had to be a model worker.

She studied at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. She majored in History, and minored in English, then obtained a law degree. Part-time jobs in college included working as a nurse's aid in a geriatric hospital, test-tube cleaner in the biochemistry department ("grosser than the hospital"), receptionist in a doctor's office, waitress, and law clerk. Through her hard work, she managed to graduate debt-free. She then worked in the legal department of a government department, and later as an associate attorney with the old established law firm of Lane, Neave, and Co., in Christchurch. She didn't know before she attempted it whether or not she would be a good trial lawyer, but thrown in the proverbial deep end, she swam!

However, as a child she had had another dream, a dream of traveling the world. So she saved every penny and made plans for her overseas trip. As a final sacrifice to the travel fund, she sold her first and beloved car, the elephant-colored and shaped "Horton", a 1957 Wolseley.

Katherine globe-trotted for about four years, picking up odd jobs every now and then, to pay for her next plane ticket. Finally it was time for her to settle down and get serious about a career. Those plans were derailed when, through an odd set of circumstances, involving at least three continents, she fell in love with and married my father, and ended up in Kalispell, Montana, in a little house and their first child, me, was born.

Although her life differed markedly from that of a pioneer woman (she spoke English, and had the necessities of life) being a newcomer and far from friends and family, with a new baby to care for was lonely and difficult at first. She adapted, and like those early women, got to work, making a home for her family and becoming part of her community.

Although her first, and most important, Montana job was to raise her children, Katherine knew she wanted to help people outside her small family. She believed becoming a lawyer was impossible, as her law degree was not from an "American Bar Association Approved" law school. When she heard Montana Inter Country Adoption was looking for a part-time social worker, she thought she could do the job and applied for it. Traveling all over Western Montana, she visited the homes of hopeful adoptive parents, and assessed whether or not this would be a suitable home for a child from overseas who needed a loving family. She loved being a part of creating families, bringing together parents and children. When the agency closed she was forced to think of a new career.

As she began to consider a career in law once again, as a paralegal, she realized the