

media fund. Rather, as the Attorney General patiently explained yesterday, she fully considered the notes and the fact that Strauss himself believed the media campaign had been financed entirely with soft money. Indeed, this issue is discussed in full in the "Notification to the Court Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 592(b) of Results of Preliminary Investigation" publicly filed on November 24, 1998.

As the Attorney General explained, the fact that Strauss's contemporaneous notes reflect discussion of the hard/soft money split, does not bear on the Vice President's recollection of the matter. Any discussion about "recorded recollection" misses the boat. Federal Rule of Evidence 803(5) states that a:

memorandum or record concerning a matter about which a witness once had knowledge but now has insufficient recollection to enable the witness to testify fully and accurately, shown to have been made or adopted by this witness when the matter was fresh in the witness' memory and to reflect that knowledge correctly

Will not be considered hearsay. However, regardless of whether Strauss's notes could be admissible at a hypothetical trial, the fact remains that they are irrelevant on the question of what the Vice President, not Strauss, knew or heard.

Although it was insinuated that thirteen memoranda from Harold Ickes are evidence as to the Vice President's knowledge of the hard money component of the media fund, as the Attorney General testified yesterday, only six or seven of those memoranda pre-dated the telephone calls. In addition, as set forth in publicly filed court documents, there was no evidence that the Vice President had read them and the Attorney General testified that the Vice President's staff "corroborated his statement that he did not, as a matter of practice, read Ickes' memos."

As to the Standard of Proof to Move from a Preliminary Investigation to Independent Counsel, Republicans have repeatedly suggested that an independent counsel should have been appointed for the Vice President and have focused on whether there was "specific and credible information" regarding wrongdoing. This is a mischaracterization of the applicable standard under the now-lapsed Independent Counsel law. As the Attorney General clarified yesterday, that standard is only relevant to whether a preliminary investigation within the Justice Department should be commenced. Indeed, such an inquiry was conducted, and concluded, with regard to the Vice President on two occasions. The Attorney General also testified accurately that in order to seek an independent counsel following the conclusion of a preliminary investigation, she needed "reasonable grounds to believe that further investigation is warranted" of the matters that had been under investigation. This standard was also accu-

rately reflected in the Attorney General's notifications to the court on this issue, in which she found no such "reasonable grounds" as to the Vice President.

Regarding the Hsi Lai Temple Matter, Republican Members questioned the Attorney General about the Vice President's visit on April 29, 1996 to the Hsi Lai Temple in Los Angeles and speculated that he was not fully forthcoming about his understanding of the nature of the event. The Vice President has consistently insisted that he was not aware this event was a fundraiser. Senator SMITH observed yesterday:

I don't understand for the life of me why any individual would deny that he or she attended a fundraiser. Attending a fundraiser is not a bad thing.

Perhaps, the answer is as simple as this: that the Vice President did not know the temple event was a fund-raiser, just as he says.

The record is clear that the Vice President was initially scheduled to attend a fund-raising luncheon at a restaurant in Los Angeles on April 29, 1996, and that after the lunch, he was supposed to go to the temple, about 20 minutes away, for a community outreach event. No tickets were to be sold and no fund-raising was to take place at the temple. A few weeks before the events, the Vice President's schedulers determined there was not enough time for two events. The guests previously invited to the restaurant luncheon were told they could attend a luncheon at the temple dining hall after the formal ceremonies.

Although the luncheon at the temple was a DNC-sponsored event, no tickets were sold, no campaign materials were displayed, no table was set up to solicit or accept contributions, and the Vice President spoke about brotherhood and religious tolerance, not fund-raising. Attendees included a Republican member of the Los Angeles County Commission.

Notwithstanding these facts, Republican Senators have insisted that an email from an aide to the Vice President on March 15, 1996, suggests that the Vice President knew the Hsi Lai Temple event was a fund-raiser. This conclusion is wrong and ignores relevant facts. First, the original plan had been for the Vice President to participate both in a fund-raiser at a restaurant and a visit to the temple on April 29, 1996. Later that day he was to attend another fund-raiser at a private home in San Jose. The email to which the Republicans referred at the hearing, dated March 15, 1996, is from an aide and states in relevant part: "we've confirmed the fundraisers for Monday, April 29th. The question is whether you wish to seriously consider [another invitation in New York]." The Vice President replied by email that "if we have already booked the fundraisers then we have to decline." Obviously, the fund-raisers to which these emails refer are the one fundraiser originally scheduled at a restaurant in Los Angeles, later cancelled, and the fundraiser in San Jose. They do not refer to the Hsi Lai temple visit.

Regarding oversight of the Peter Lee case, Senator SPECTER has claimed that the Peter Lee case is a closed matter and that it was somehow appropriate to interview the district court judge in that case. The record should be clear that the Lee case is in fact pending in at least two respects. First, Lee filed a motion to terminate his probation on September 28, 1999. Opposition to the motion was filed by the government on October 6, 1999. A decision on that motion had not yet been rendered at the time of the Senator's interview of the judge in February 1999 and may remain pending today. In addition, until either this motion is granted or Lee's term of probation expires, Lee will remain under the supervision of the court and the Probation Department. Should he commit any violations, his probation could be revoked by the judge and he could be sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

Concerning the idea that Judiciary Committee Senators should have standing in independent counsel matters, I have heard the suggestion that the Judiciary Committee should have standing to seek judicial review of the Attorney General's decisions on special counsel matters. This proposal seeks yet again to politicize the integrity of the process. It also ignores the fact that the independent counsel law is no longer in effect. The special counsel process is simply governed by Attorney General regulations. Surely this Committee should not have standing to intervene in the application of internal Justice Department regulations.

I have expressed concern about the damage that can be done to the integrity of the criminal justice system if the majority in Congress politicizes prosecutorial decision-making, including by interfering in ongoing criminal matters and pending investigations. Authorizing the majority of a standing Congressional Committee to initiate a criminal investigation is a bad idea.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

June 28, 1999:

Shawn Anderson, 28, Baltimore, MD; James Bennett, 54, Houston, TX; Charles Johnson, 43, Houston, TX; John J. Juska, 58,

Cape Coral, FL; Kris Kempski, 32, St. Louis, MO; Samuel L. Leonard, 43, Chicago, IL; Keith McSwain, 21, Washington, DC; Alfredo Montano, 23, Chicago, IL; Ronald Posada, 22, Houston, TX; Latrell Thomas, 34, Chicago, IL; Robin Thompson, 21, Baltimore, MD; Taha Wheeler, 21, Detroit, MI; Willie Wilson, 44, Philadelphia, PA; Ronnie Woodall, 26, St. Louis, MO; and an unidentified male, 27, Portland, OR.

RUSSIA HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to voice my concern about the deteriorating human rights situation in Russia. A decade after the break-up of the Soviet Union, Russia still faces enormous obstacles to becoming a stable and prosperous nation. Russia's GDP is less than half of what it was before the break-up, with much of its population impoverished and uncertain about its future. Russia's medical system is in near collapse, and both life expectancy birthrates have declined sharply. Crime is escalating, and corruption is widespread.

This is a scenario that would challenge any government. It will require great leadership to turn things around in order to move Russia towards greater freedom and prosperity. But recent events have made me fearful that, rather than leading Russia forward, President Putin and his government are leading their country back into the regrettable past.

The apparently baseless arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky raises new concerns about President Putin's commitment to an independent media, particularly in light of his government's abuse of Radio Liberty journalist Andrey Babitsky in retaliation for critical reporting from Chechnya. The Russian government has not heeded international calls for an independent investigation into reports of escalating human rights abuses allegedly committed by Russian troops against Chechen civilians. The reported harassment by the Putin government against some religious minorities, including pressure placed on a prominent Jewish group, is also extremely troubling.

Mr. President, a Russia that is democratic and free and follows the rule of law will be a strong and prosperous country, a source of pride to its people, and an ally respected by all nations. I call on Congress and the Administration to do all that is possible to ensure that President Putin moves his country towards this goal.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 27, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,650,719,953,982.79 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty billion, seven hundred nineteen million, nine hundred fifty-three thousand, nine hundred eighty-two dollars and seventy-nine cents).

One year ago, June 27, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,640,526,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred forty billion, five hundred twenty-six million).

Five years ago, June 27, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,948,217,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred forty-eight billion, two hundred seventeen million).

Ten years ago, June 27, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,165,289,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred sixty-five billion, two hundred eighty-nine million) which reflects almost a doubling of the debt—an increase of almost \$2.5 trillion—\$2,485,430,953,982.79 (Two trillion, four hundred eighty-five billion, four hundred thirty million, nine hundred fifty-three thousand, nine hundred eighty-two dollars and seventy-nine cents) during the past 10 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PRESERVING TYRE, LEBANON

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the American National Committee for Tyre and the International Association to Save Tyre for all the good work they are doing to raise awareness on the issue of preserving this great historical site. As many may know, Tyre, Lebanon was one of the most important cities in the classical era. It served as an administrative center of life for the people of the Mediterranean region, and was the birthplace for the modern day alphabet and democracy. If restored to its original beauty, and its antiquities are carefully unearthed and preserved, Tyre could become a world center for cultural education of past civilizations.

I am pleased to serve as the Honorary Chairman of the American National Committee and I am honored to work with my colleague and friend, Senator Claiborne Pell, whose previous 20 years of leadership on this issue remains invaluable.

There is no dispute that underneath the present day soil of Tyre lies the great archeological treasures of eight successive civilizations: the Phoenician, Persian, Roman, Greek, Byzantine, Arab, and Ottoman, as well as that of the Crusaders. Many attempts have been made to unearth these treasures, but present day realities have made it very difficult to implement a full fledged plan to discover these antiquities.

Tyre has been designated as a World Heritage site, and as such, should be treated with great respect for the education of future generations. The Government of Lebanon is searching for ways to protect the archeological sites while planning realistically for economic expansion and tourism. However there are problems.

The Lebanese Government recently approved building the southern extension of the coastal highway near many of the archeological treasures. The government has also permitted some of the coastal sea area to be refilled for the construction of parking lots. In addition, there has been damaging activity surrounding Tell El-Mashouk.

It is my hope that the Lebanese government will institute a master plan, cultural resources assessment, and a management plan for Tyre which will clearly map out the best approach at uncovering, preserving, and displaying these vast treasures. I do hope that the government will cease its present activity in the area until it can develop a workable and enforceable plan.

It seems a particularly appropriate time for the Lebanese Government to be planning their approach to the city of Tyre. With the Israeli withdrawal from the South of Lebanon, and peace close at hand, Lebanon can begin the process of rebuilding through tourism. It is my hope that part of the agenda to rebuild Southern Lebanon includes the preservation of the great city of Tyre and its surroundings, and I offer my assistance to do what I can in the United States to help the government of Lebanon achieve this goal. •

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE SHACKELFORD

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent, a distinguished public servant, and a friend—Wayne Shackelford, who recently retired as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation.

During his tenure, Commissioner Shackelford presided over the reshaping of Georgia's transportation network, helping build up our state's infrastructure for the 21st century. As one of the fastest growing states in the Union, with a population rapidly approaching 8 million, Georgia will face many challenges in the coming decades. We are well prepared to meet those challenges in large part thanks to the vision and leadership of Wayne Shackelford.

Since taking office in 1991, he has overseen the construction of more than 5,000 miles of new roads throughout the state, while stewarding such innovations as Georgia's first express lanes for buses and car pools and a computer system to monitor and manage traffic movement. In fact, Georgia DOT's Advanced Transportation Management System, NAVIGATOR, is the most complete model of an urban transportation management system in the United States and is being studied by transportation leaders worldwide.

Commissioner Shackelford is recognized for his interest in multimodal and intermodal transportation issues. He has refocused the efforts of Georgia DOT on the movement of people and goods, not just vehicles, and has looked beyond roads by initiating the development of passenger rail service and expanding rural airports to accommodate commuter aircraft.

His leadership extends to regional and national transportation policy development. He served as President of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in 1993 and was President of the American Association of State Highway and