

as a "spectacular feat of airmanship." Experienced EP-3 pilots termed it astounding. Indeed, it was.

Think about what had just happened: The collision with a smaller, faster Chinese F-8 had dropped Lt. Osborn's EP-3 between 5,000 and 8,000 feet and turned it almost completely upside-down; two of the plane's four propellers had been clipped in the collision, rendering useless the wing flaps used to slow the plane during landing.

The collision had also sheared off the plane's nose cone.

And most of the plane's instruments were so badly damaged that they were useless.

Even so, Lt. Osborn managed to stabilize the plane, and he and his crew were able to guide it to the nearest airport, 70 miles northwest, on China's Hainan Island.

Remarkably, during that 70-mile flight, Lt. Osborn and his crew had the presence of mind to follow international procedure and issue a series of distress signals. In fact, they issued as many as 25 signals on two separate standard frequencies.

Lt. Osborn's crew and commanders say his courage and quick thinking saved 24 lives.

After landing in Hainan, with their plane surrounded by armed Chinese personnel, Lt. Osborn and his crew followed U.S. Navy procedure. They destroyed sensitive documents and technology, greatly limiting what could have been a significant intelligence loss.

For the next 11 days, Lt. Osborn's leadership, courage, dignity, and his remarkable sense of humor, helped keep the spirits of his crew high.

We are fortunate to be protected and represented by the entire crew of that Navy EP-3: Richard Bensing; Steven Blocher; Bradford Borland; David Cecka; John Comerford; Shawn Coursen; Jeremy Crandall; Josef Edmunds; Brandon Funk; Scott Guidry; Jason Hanser; Patrick Honeck; Regina Kauffman; Nicholas Mellos; Ramon Mercado; Richard Payne; Mitchell Pray; Kenneth Richter; Marcia Sonon; Curtis Towne; Jeffrey Vignery; Wendy Westbrook, and Rodney Young.

As a *South Dakotan*, I must say I am especially proud of Lt. Shane Osborn, who followed his dream from Mitchell, SD, to the Norfolk, Nebraska Civil Air Patrol, and now, into the pages of Naval history. He is a true hero, and we are proud of him.

SMALL BUSINESS AMENDMENT TO THE 2002 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I submit a statement for the RECORD regarding a small business amendment I offered to the fiscal year 2002 budget resolution with my colleague, Senator BOND, on April 6, 2001.

First, let me extend sincere thanks to my colleagues for supporting this amendment which restored critical

funding to the Small Business Administration's finance and management assistance programs that help start and strengthen small businesses in our country. Second, let me correct the Record to reflect all the cosponsors:

Senators BOND, BINGAMAN, WELLSTONE, LANDRIEU, DASCHLE, LEAHY, JOHNSON, SCHUMER, COLLINS, LEVIN, SNOWE, HARKIN, CONRAD, and DOMENICI.

My apologies to Senators CONRAD, DOMENICI, and HARKIN who were not listed in the RECORD when the amendment passed. Again, thank you to all my colleagues for agreeing to this amendment and showing their support for our small businesses.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the amendment and the summary along with all the letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 183

(Purpose: To revise the budget for fiscal year 2002 so that the small business programs at the Small Business Administration are adequately funded and can continue to provide loans and business assistance to the country's 24 million small businesses, and to restore and reasonably increase funding to specific programs at the Small Business Administration because the current budget request reduces funding for the Agency by a minimum of 26 percent at a time when the economy is volatile and the Federal Reserve Board reports that 45 percent of banks have reduced lending to small businesses by making it harder to obtain loans and more expensive to borrow)

On page 21, line 15, increase the amount by \$264,000,000.

On page 21, line 16, increase the amount by \$154,000,000.

On page 43, line 15, decrease the amount by \$264,000,000.

On page 43, line 16, decrease the amount by \$154,000,000.

On page 48, line 8, increase the amount by \$264,000,000.

On page 48, line 9, increase the amount by \$154,000,000.

Purpose: To amend the budget for fiscal year 2002 so that the small business programs at the Small Business Administration are adequately funded and can continue to provide loans and business assistance to the country's 24 million small businesses. It is necessary to restore and reasonably increase funding to specific programs at the SBA because the current budget request reduces funding for the Agency by a minimum of 26 percent at time when the economy is volatile and the Federal Reserve Board reports that 45 percent of banks have reduced lending to small businesses by making it harder to obtain loans and more expensive to borrow.

All funds are added to Function 376, which funds the SBA for FY 2002.

CREDIT PROGRAMS

\$118 million for 7(a) loans, funding an \$11 billion program

\$26.2 million for SBIC participating securities, will support a \$2 billion program

\$750,000 million for direct microloans, funding a \$30 million program

\$21 million for new markets venture capital debentures, funding \$150 million program

Total request for credit programs = \$166 million

NON-CREDIT PROGRAMS

\$4 million for the National Veterans Business Development Corporation

\$10 million for Microloan Technical Assistance, total of \$30 million

\$30 million for the Small Business Development Centers, total of \$105 million

\$30 million for New Markets Venture Capital Technical Assistance

\$15 million for the Program for Investment in Microenterprise

\$7 million for BusinessLINC

\$1.7 million for Women's Business Centers, bringing total to \$13.7 million

\$250,000 for Women's Business Council, bringing total to \$1 million

Total request for non-credit programs = \$98 million

Total request for credit and non-credit programs = \$264 million

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED LENDERS, INC.,

Stillwater, OK, April 5, 2001.

Hon. JOHN F. KERRY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: I am writing on behalf of NAGGL's nearly 700 members in support of your amendment, number 183, to the Budget Resolution that would revise the proposed budget for the Small Business Administration in fiscal year 2002. Specifically, your amendment would restore \$264 million to the SBA's budget in fiscal year 2002 of which \$118 million is earmarked for the agency's 7(a) guaranteed loan program. We strongly believe it is in the best interest of small business that your amendment be adopted.

The present budget proposes no fiscal year 2002 appropriations for the 7(a) loan program and instead proposes to make the program self-funding through the imposition of increased fees. The previous SBA Administrator testified before the House Small Business Committee last year that the 7(a) program was already being run at a "profit" to the government. This statement was confirmed in a September 2000 Congressional Budget Office report entitled "Credit Subsidy Reestimates, 1993-1999." Unfortunately, the budget as currently proposed would, in our view, have the effect of imposing additional taxes by increasing program fees. This result would be ironic given the Administration's push for tax cuts.

A recent survey of NAGGL's membership, who currently make approximately 80 percent of SBA 7(a) guaranteed loans, shows that if the budget were adopted as proposed, most lenders would significantly curtail their 7(a) lending activities. Therefore, small businesses would find it more difficult and expensive to obtain crucial long-term financing. The proposed budget would increase the lender's cost of making a loan by 75 percent and would increase the direct cost to the borrower by 12 percent. Any fee increase is unacceptable when the program is already profitable for the government.

The small business consequences of a slowdown in 7(a) guaranteed lending are manifold. Currently, according to statistics available from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the SBA, approximately 30 percent of all long-term loans, those with a maturity of 3 years or more, carry an SBA 7(a) guarantee. This is because lenders generally are unwilling to make long-term loans with a short-term deposit base. Therefore, reducing the availability of 7(a) capital to small businesses will have a significant effect on them and on the economy.

The average maturity for an SBA 7(a) guaranteed loan is 14 years. The average conventional small business loan carries an average maturity of one year or less. For those

conventional loans with original maturities over one year, the average maturity is just three years. The majority of SBA 7(a) borrowers are new business startups or early stage companies. The longer maturities provided by the SBA 7(a) loan program give small businesses valuable payment relief, as the longer maturity loans carry substantially lower monthly payments.

For example, if a small business borrower had to take a 5 year conventional loan instead of a 10 year SBA 7(a) loan, the result would be a 35%-40% increase in monthly payments. The lower debt payments are critical to startup and early stage companies. Small business loans, where they can be found, would have vastly increased monthly payments. This at a time when the economy appears to be struggling and when bank regulators have spurred banks to tighten credit criteria, the current budget only proposes to worsen the situation for small business borrowers.

Your amendment would help mitigate this problem. It would provide small businesses far better access to long-term financing on reasonable terms and conditions at a time when their access to such capital is critical. We urge your colleagues to support your initiative and adopt your amendment.

Respectfully,

ANTHONY R. WILKINSON.

—
U.S. HISPANIC CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2001.

Hon. JOHN F. KERRY,
Ranking Member, Senate Small Business Committee, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: We write in support of the Kerry/Bond Amendment to restore \$264 million of the proposed cuts to the Small Business Administration's (SBA) budget. We further support the amendment's proposal to have these funds come out of the contingency fund and not the tax cut or the Medicare/Social Security trust fund. Your amendment would ensure that the small business programs at the SBA are adequately funded and continue to provide loan and business assistance to Hispanic-owned small businesses in this country.

The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) represents the interest of approximately 1.5 million Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States and Puerto Rico. With a network of over 200 local Hispanic chambers of commerce across the country, the USHCC stands as the pre-eminent business organization that promotes the economic growth and development of Hispanic entrepreneurs.

The SBA programs that are currently in jeopardy of losing funds have been extremely instrumental in helping our Hispanic entrepreneurs start and maintain successful businesses in the United States. Without these programs, the Hispanic business community will suffer huge setbacks to the strides we have been able to achieve over the years. It is therefore necessary to restore and increase funding to these programs so that the Hispanic business community will continue to experience economic growth and success in this country.

We support your efforts and urge other members of the Senate to support the Kerry/Bond amendment in restoring these necessary funds to the SBA.

Respectfully submitted,

MARITZA RIVERA,
Vice President for Government Relations.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
BANKERS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2001.

To: Members of the U.S. Senate.

From: Independent Community Bankers of America.

Re: ICBA support the Kerry-Bond amendment to preserve small business loan programs and to prevent new fees.

On behalf of the 5,300 members of the ICBA, we support the Kerry-Bond amendment to the FY 2002 budget and urge all Senators to join in support of this important bipartisan amendment. The amendment to be offered by Senators John Kerry (D-Mass) and Christopher Bond (R-Missouri) would prevent new hidden taxes in the form of additional fees imposed on small business lenders and borrowers. The proposed FY 2002 Budget pending in the Senate would levy significant new fees on the SBA 7(a) loan program. These increased fees would jeopardize needed lending and credit to small business at the worst possible time as our economy has slowed dramatically and small business lending has become more difficult. Therefore, the Kerry-Bond amendment would restore the appropriation for the 7(a) small business loan program and prevent onerous new fees from being levied on borrowers and lenders.

This amendment shares bipartisan support. The Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate Small Business Committees oppose new taxes on small businesses in the form of higher loan fees. Specifically, Small Business Committee Chairman Chris Bond and Ranking Member John Kerry have asked for the \$118 million appropriation to support the 7(a) loan program to be restored in the FY 2002 Budget. The ICBA applauds the bipartisan efforts of Senators Kerry and Bond in offering their amendment.

We urge every Senators' support for the Kerry-Bond amendment so that small businesses have continued access to needed credit and that the 7(a) loan program is not devastated by taxing new fees.

—
ASSOCIATION OF SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CENTERS,
Burke, VA.

Hon. JOHN F. KERRY,
Ranking Minority Member, Senate Small Business Committee, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: We wish to commend you for proosing an amendment to the Budget Resolution calling for the restoration of funding for the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and 7(a) Guaranteed Loan Programs. During this period of economic downturn, it is even more important that funding for these two critically important programs not be compromised as hundreds of thousands of small businesses will need management and technical assistance and long term debt financing more than ever.

As for the SBDC Program specifically, we are proud to report that the most recent impact survey of the program found that in one year SBDC's helped small businesses create 92,000 new jobs, generate \$630 million in new tax revenues, increased by 67,000 the number of entrepreneurs counseled above previous levels, and provided training to more than 84,000 small business owners than were trained during the last reporting period. In all, over 750,000 small business and prevention clients received SBDC assistance in the last fiscal year. And that was during good economic times.

Your seeking funding of \$105,000,000 for the SBDC Program is bipartisan as Senator Kit Bond, Chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee in his Views and Estimates letter to the Senate Budget Committee called for the same funding level. Likewise Senator Bond opposed any funding cut for

the 7(a) Guaranteed Loan Program. Both recommendations we applaud.

We also understand that your amendment would restore funding for the New Markets and PRIME programs. This association has taken no formal position regarding funding for these well intended programs.

Thank you for soliciting our views. We appreciate your leadership regarding these two outstanding SBA programs.

Sincerely,

DONALD T. WILSON,
Director of Government Relations.

—
WESST CORP,
Albuquerque, NM, April 5, 2001.

Hon. JOHN F. KERRY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: On behalf of the Association of Women's Business Centers, I am writing to voice our full support for the amendment you have introduced (#183) which would provide adequate funding for the Small Business Administration's programs targeted to lending and business assistance.

As you know, the SBA programs serve the credit and business development needs of women, minorities, and low-income entrepreneurs all across the United States and Puerto Rico. It is absolutely critical that these programs, particularly the Women's Business Centers Program, the Microloan Program, PRIME, and the National Women's Business Council, receive the funding you have recommended in your amendment so that existing and emerging entrepreneurs throughout the country continue to have opportunities to realize the American dream of business ownership.

As an advocate for tens of thousands of women business owners across the country, the AWBC applauds your vision and leadership in helping to ensure that these critical SBA programs continue to serve the entrepreneurial and credit needs of the American people.

We look forward to working with you in the months ahead to ensure the passage of this amendment.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

AGNES NOONAN,
Chair, AWBC Policy Committee, Executive Director.

—
THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S
BUSINESS CENTER,
Boston, MA, April 5, 2001.

Hon. JOHN F. KERRY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: As the President of the Association of Women's Business Centers (AWBC), I am writing on behalf of the 80+ Women's Business Centers who have been funded by the Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership. We write to support your amendment #183 to increase funding for the SBA programs and, in particular, to fund the Women's Business Center Program at \$13.7 million.

The President's budget only provides level funding of \$12 million for the WBC program, which is inadequate at this time as women are continuing to start two-thirds of all new businesses. Clearly, we need an increase in funding at this time to continue to ensure that we are keeping pace with this fast growth and providing services to as many women business owners as possible.

Thank you very much for your continued support and advocacy on our behalf.

Sincerely,

ANDREA C. SILBERT,
President, AWBC, and CEO Center for Women & Enterprise.

HOUSTON, TX,
April 5, 2001.

Senator JOHN KERRY,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: Since I work with small business owners every day to help them obtain the financing they require to start a new business, acquire a business or expand an existing business, I wanted you to know that I strongly support you and your efforts regarding Amendment 183.

Thank you for your continued good work.
Sincerely,

CHAIRMAN ROSALES.

TAIWAN ARMS SALE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Administration recently informed Congress of its arms sales package to Taiwan. Having long followed political developments both in Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, PRC, and having visited both sides of the Strait, I wanted to make a few brief comments.

First, weapon systems and military hardware aside, the political message transmitted to Taipei through the sales is that America's commitment to Taiwan remains steadfast and strong. This is an appropriate message delivered in a timely manner by the new Administration and with the encouragement and support of Congress.

Second, the package generally reflects a balanced approach to Taiwan's defensive needs, particularly on and under the sea. While the Arleigh Burke-class destroyers equipped with the Aegis radar system are not part of this year's sale, and would not be operational until 2010, the Administration has left open the option to pursue Aegis-equipped destroyers at a future date. Aegis is still on the table. America has bolstered Taiwan's defensive capabilities through Kidd-class destroyers, P-3 aircraft, submarines, and other weapons, and has deferred decisions on other sales, such as tanks and helicopters, pending a review of Taiwan's ground forces needs.

Finally, the PRC must understand that its continued buildup of short-range ballistic missiles opposite Taiwan and aggressive modernization of its military for offensive purposes will all but guarantee the future sale of Aegis-equipped destroyers, or other technologically advanced weapons system. If the Mainland is serious in wanting a peaceful resolution of differences with Taiwan, senior military and civilian leaders must accept America's obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act to provide "defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability."

Simply put, every Chinese offensive military action will have a Taiwan-U.S. defensive reaction. Beijing can make clear its intentions by immediately renouncing the option to use force against Taiwan, and by reducing its military deployments across the Strait.

I intend to continue to follow political and military developments not just in Taiwan and the PRC but throughout the region. I urge Beijing and Taipei to continue dialogue as the means of resolving their differences.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to speak today in order to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. As you know, today marks the 86th anniversary of this tragic occurrence. It is important that we take time to remember and honor the victims, and pay respect to the survivors that are still with us.

April 24th marks the inception of brutal genocidal campaign to eliminate Armenians from the Turkish Ottoman Empire. From the period of 1915-1923, approximately one and a half million Armenians perished under the rule of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. During this horrific period, the Armenian people fell victim to deportation, conscription, torture, starvation and murder.

The Armenian genocide was the result of a consciously orchestrated government plan. The German Chancellor to the Ottoman Empire, Count Wolff-Metternich, stated at the time that, "In its attempt to carry out its purpose to resolve the Armenian question by the destruction of the Armenian race, the Turkish government has refused to be deterred neither by our representations, nor by those of the American Embassy, nor by the delegate of the Pope . . ."

In a century filled with loss and bloodshed, the Armenian Genocide marked the first effort of the century to systematically eliminate an entire people. Unfortunately, the world did not learn from this massacre, and the past 86 years have been stained by reminders that there are those who will stop at no means to spread their agendas of hate and intolerance.

Nobel Laureate writer Elie Wiesel has said that the denial of genocide constitutes a "double killing" for it seeks to rewrite history by absolving the perpetrators of violence while ignoring the suffering of the victims. We must acknowledge the horrors perpetrated against the Armenian people to preserve the memory of the victims and to remind the world that we cannot and will not forget these crimes against humanity. However, it is not enough to simply remember those who have perished. We must speak out against such tragedies, and dedicate ourselves to ensuring that evils such as the Armenian Genocide are not revisited on our planet. This is the highest tribute we can pay to the victims of any genocide.

The Armenian people have preserved their culture, faith and identity for over a thousand years. In the last century alone, the Armenian people witnessed the horrors of two World Wars and several decades of Soviet dominance in order to establish modern Armenia. I hope all my Senate colleagues

will join me in honoring and remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today marks the 86th anniversary of the beginning of one of the great human tragedies of history, the Armenian genocide. Between 1915-1923 as many as 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered by the Ottoman Empire and hundreds of thousands more were forced to flee their homeland. These Armenians were victims of a policy intended to isolate, exile and even extinguish the Armenian population.

Although nearly a century has passed since this tragedy occurred, we must not wipe it from our consciousness and let it become the forgotten past. Rather, we must continually learn from mistakes of the past so that they are not repeated again and again in the future. Recent history in Bosnia, Rwanda and Kosovo tells us that systematic brutality, that the attempt to wipe out an entire population because of its ethnicity, is still possible. The atrocities that took place in these countries remind us that we still have much to learn.

The international community has made some progress, standing up for justice, holding those responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law accountable for their crimes. By establishing war crimes tribunals, like the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ICTR, we have begun to send the clear message that such atrocious crimes will not go unpunished. I am pleased that the former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, who has been wanted on international war crimes charges for his role in the campaign of violence and hate in the Balkans, has finally been arrested. I hope that his arrest marks the beginning of full justice being served with regard to him and others responsible for the unspeakable crimes committed in the Former Yugoslavia.

Each day we continue to read about and witness ethnic violence and violations of human rights in countries across the globe. Sadly, in many places this is simply the norm. Clearly there is a great deal of work that still needs to be done to prevent human tragedy. So today as we commemorate the Armenian genocide, let us honor the men, women and children whose lives were lost between 1915-1923, as well as the other countless victims of violence throughout history, and recommit ourselves to efforts that foster acceptance of others, respect for human rights, democratic principles, and peaceful relations between people and nations at all levels.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today marks the 86th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate this terrible crime and to help ensure that it will never happen again.