

proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 425 submitted earlier today by Senators DASCHLE, REID, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 425) honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

THE BIRTHDAY OF FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, like many Americans, I was concerned to learn that former President Bill Clinton was suffering serious heart disease and had to be hospitalized for heart bypass surgery. Like many Americans, I was relieved to learn that his surgery had gone well, and that the former President is recuperating in his home in New York. The former President is known for his energy, and I hope that he will have a speedy recovery and will return to full health soon. I offer my best regards to him and his family, including our distinguished colleague, Senator CLINTON.

Inspired, no doubt, by this concern, our Democratic colleagues have joined in sponsoring a resolution to honor the former President on his 58th birthday. I wish to join them in wishing former President Clinton greetings on his 58th birthday, and I wish him many more.

Unfortunately, there is language in this resolution that is incorrect, at least because it is historically inaccurate, and at most because it seriously distorts the historical record and defames the memory of 200,000 victims of genocide in southeastern Europe.

There is a bizarre clause in this otherwise laudable attempt to give the President a legislative birthday card that states:

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton rallied the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to put an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and to depose the murderous regime of Slobodan Milosevic, actions which eventually led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords. . . .

I know that, in the hurried pace of work around here, particularly in this type of political season, a certain sloppiness can find its way into legislative language. But this statement, as I have said, is incorrect and offensive.

It is incorrect because, as anyone who knows the history will confirm—and I was here in the Senate throughout the bloody wars of southeast Europe in the 1990s—the removal of Slobodan Milosevic from power occurred in 2000, almost 5 years after the Dayton Peace Accords were signed in the autumn of 1995. That's why the statement is inaccurate.

The statement is offensive because almost 200,000 innocent civilians died as victims of ethnic cleansing from the outbreak of the wars of southeast Eu-

rope in 1992 until the United States finally acted in the late summer of 1995. The majority of those deaths, I must remind my colleagues, occurred during the first three years of the Clinton Presidency.

From the outbreak of the wars of Yugoslavia in 1992, I came to this floor advocating a policy of "lift and strike": lift the international arms embargo imposed on Yugoslavia and strike, with air power, the Yugoslavian army under the control of the mass murderers Slobodan Milosevic, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. I was joined on the Senate floor by my colleagues JOE BIDEN, JOE LIEBERMAN and Bob Dole and many other Members of this body. The first Bush administration ignored us and left office shortly after the wars began. President Clinton, who ran on a campaign platform supporting "lift and strike," reversed his position upon entering office and assumed a policy consistent, it appears, with current Democratic foreign policy thinking, that deferred to the international community.

We can recall the effectiveness of the United Nations in Bosnia, when we think of blue-helmeted U.N. forces remaining by the sidelines as Serb forces captured Srebrenica in the summer of 1995, and herded thousands of unarmed men and boys—to their slaughter in mass graves.

That summer, a summer that began with Serb militaries surrounding the eastern enclaves of Bosnia and the Clinton administration refusing to lift the arms embargo preventing the Bosnians from defending themselves, while Bosnian Prime Minister Siladze came to Washington and begged not to leave his people to die unarmed, the Dole-Lieberman-Hatch resolution lifting the arms embargo passed by 69 votes. This veto-proof measure, along with the photos of the horrors of Srebrenica on the front page of *The Washington Post*—one horrid photo showed a woman hanging herself in despair—caused the Clinton administration to relent.

When Bill Clinton acted, in late 1995, he saw that, when the United States leads, the international community will follow. When he acted again, in 1999, to stop Milosevic's campaign in Kosovo—a campaign we knew would happen when Milosevic was not removed from power in 1995—the international community followed. In both cases, I supported the President, as did a number of Republican Members in this body. He acted too late for hundreds of thousands, but he finally acted. It will be left to the historians, along with the members of that administration, to ponder and justify and explain why there was value in waiting while genocide raged across southeastern Europe.

A birthday gesture to a former President is not the place for this debate, and I certainly would not speak here were it not for this ill-conceived language that appears in this resolution.

But legislation of any kind becomes a permanent record of the work of the United States Congress. This language, when stating historical fact, contributes to the interpretation of history. I am a proud member of the council of the Holocaust Museum and I am proud to support the mission of that revered institution, which could simply be stated that the truth of genocide should always be stated. To allow the clause I have just read from this otherwise harmless birthday resolution to become a statement of historical fact is a whitewash of history, something a democratic body should never do.

But worse, it is a calumny, a grave dishonor, on the memories of 200,000 civilians of southeastern Europe, people who died in a genocidal war in Europe less than 50 years after the Holocaust, civilian men and women and children who died while the international community failed, the U.N. failed and two administrations, including President Clinton's administration, for almost 3 years, waited for a power to act like only the United States can.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 425) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 425

Whereas former President William Jefferson Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton attended Georgetown University as an undergraduate and received a Rhodes Scholarship in 1968;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton received a law degree from Yale University in 1973;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton established a record of public service as Attorney General of Arkansas, Governor of Arkansas, and Chairman of the National Governors Association;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton campaigned for and won the Democratic nomination for President in 1992;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton was elected the 42d President of the United States in 1992 and was reelected for a second term in 1996;

Whereas during William Jefferson Clinton's time in office the United States experienced 8 years of economic expansion, job growth, and the transformation of a budget deficit into a budget surplus;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton rallied the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to put an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and to depose the murderous regime of Slobodan Milosevic, actions which eventually led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton played a major role in the Good Friday Peace Accords which finally brought peace to war-torn Northern Ireland; and

Whereas, in the words of President George W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton 'showed

a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit the Americans like in a President: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 58th birthday on August 19, 2004, and extends best wishes to him and his family.

EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5008, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5008) to provide an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act, and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to address H.R. 5008, a bill to provide a temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and to enhance the operations of the Small Business Administration.

The bill before us would extend until September 30, 2004, SBA programs that have expired. In addition, it would provide clarification as to the SBA's method of reimbursing its Fiscal and Transfer Agent, which assists in the operation of the SBA's vital loan programs.

In July 2004 I introduced S. 2700, a bill that extended these same SBA programs and also provided this clarification regarding the Fiscal and Transfer Agent. The Senate unanimously approved S. 2700 on July 20, but unfortunately the other body failed to pass that bill, leaving many critical small business assistance programs unauthorized. Today, we have another opportunity to renew these programs and to provide this legislative improvement, and we should not miss the chance.

Since 1953, nearly 20 million small business owners have received direct or indirect help from one of the SBA's lending or technical assistance programs, making the agency one of the Government's most cost-effective instruments for economic development. The SBA's current loan portfolio of more than 175,000 loans, worth more than \$45 billion, makes it the largest single supporter of small businesses in the country.

According to the SBA, the \$65.5 billion awarded to small businesses in Federal prime and subcontracts in FY 2003 allowed small businesses to create or retain close to 500,000 jobs. Over the last five years the SBA's programs and services have helped create and retain over 6.2 million jobs.

The Senate agreed unanimously in September 2003 to pass a bill I intro-

duced, the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003, to authorize the entire SBA for a three-year period. However, we have been unable to reauthorize the SBA because the other body has been stalled in its consideration of SBA authorization legislation. According to the SBA, reauthorizing the agency will result in an estimated 3.3 million jobs created or retained over the next 5 years, with the SBA and its programs predicted to support over 1 million additional jobs over that same period through prime contracts and sub-contracts.

In the absence of a full reauthorization of the Agency, which I am still working to bring about, it is vital that we extend those programs that can provide current assistance to small businesses. The bill before us, H.R. 5008, would renew the authorization for several SBA programs, including the Preferred Surety Bond Program. This program provides an essential service to small businesses by guaranteeing surety bonds for small business contracts, thereby permitting small businesses to undertake thousands of projects which would otherwise be out of reach.

H.R. 5008 would also specify the manner in which the SBA may compensate its Fiscal and Transfer Agent. This agent administers payments and fee collection in the SBA's loan programs and in the secondary market for those loans. This legislative change, requested by the administration in its budget submission to Congress for Fiscal Year 2005, would provide guidance as to the SBA's method of compensating its agent.

Additionally, this legislation will preserve the operations of existing Women's Business Center that currently serve women entrepreneurs in almost every State and territory. Today, more than 10.6 million women-owned small businesses are helping to fuel our economic recovery: they employ over 19 million Americans and contribute \$2.46 trillion in revenues. In my home State of Maine, there are more than 63,000 women-owned firms, generating more than \$9 billion in sales. Numbers like these speak for themselves, and are clear evidence of the success of the Women's Business Centers Program.

Moreover, according to research, between 2001 and 2003, women's business center clients reported starting over 6,600 new firms and creating more than 12,000 new jobs.

Mr. President, without this legislation, many of the Centers may be in jeopardy of closing their doors. This would be a significant loss, given that some of these Centers have proven to be powerful engines of economic development in communities across the Nation.

As we work toward the larger goal of a full reauthorization of the SBA, I urge my colleagues to support the enactment of H.R. 5008. This legislation would allow essential SBA programs to

continue to assist small businesses during the remainder of this Fiscal Year.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I join Chair SNOWE in supporting legislation to keep the Small Business Administration and its financing and counseling assistance available to small businesses. This bill temporarily authorizes the SBA and most of its programs through September 30, 2004. In addition to the temporary extension, this bill includes a provision necessary to bring the administration into compliance with a January 2003 recommendation by the SBA's Inspector General. This change will save the SBA hundreds of thousands of dollars by allowing the agency's fiscal and transfer agent for the 7(a) loan program's secondary market program to keep the interest earned on fees lenders pay before they are remitted to the Government. Currently, the SBA does not have that authority. The committee wants the program to continue running smoothly and successfully, and we think this change should accomplish this.

Six SBA programs were halted after S. 2700, a similar bill sponsored by Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Chair OLYMPIA SNOWE and myself, passed the Senate on July 20 but did not pass the House prior to the August recess. The six programs reinstated by H.R. 5008 are: the Women's Business Center Sustainability program, the Small Disadvantaged Business, SDB, program, the Preferred Surety Bond, PSB, Guarantee program, the Small Business Development Center, SBDC, Drug-Free Workplace Assistance Grants program, the Very Small Business Concerns program, and the SBA's co-sponsorship authority.

With passage of this bill, the committee expects the SBA to move forward on grants for all its programs and certification for minority businesses, and any other activities it has been delaying.

And while I am pleased that this bill will extend all of SBA's programs and pilot programs, I am disappointed that the dire and urgent needs of the women's business center program have yet to be fully addressed. Given the abysmal job creation record of this administration, we must aggressively seek and support innovative ways to create jobs, and the women's business center program has a proven track record of doing just that. Last year alone, the women's business center network helped over 100,000 female entrepreneurs grow their businesses, employ more people, and expand economic opportunity.

A study recently released by the National Women's Business Council shows that over the past 2 years, while funding for the women's business center program has remained essentially flat, the number of clients served increased by 91 percent and the number of new businesses started went up 376 percent.