

As we know, peacekeeping, in some people's eyes, can be considered offensive actions.

I go on to quote:

It will work closely with other nations that share our hopes and values and interests through the Partnership for Peace. It will be an alliance directed no longer against a hostile bloc of nations, but instead designed to advance the security of every democracy in Europe—NATO's old members, new members and nonmembers alike.

Mr. President, I certainly hope this doesn't mean what it sounds like it means—the end of NATO as a defensive alliance and its transformation into a regional peacekeeping organization. Will the “new NATO” exist to protect its members—or to engage in many Bosnia-like missions all over Central and Eastern Europe?

Now let me speak briefly of costs. To say the least, there is a great deal of skepticism over the question of how much this is going to cost the American taxpayer and whether the very low estimates now being given by the administration are, in any way, credible. I note that we have not even begun to discuss how much of the costs accruing to the new allies will end up being billed to the United States. For example, in May of 1997, ABC News quoted the American Ambassador to Hungary to the effect that the American share of buying new planes for the Hungarian Force “will be perhaps 20 percent to 25 percent” of the cost of that “at most.”

How about 30 percent or how about 40 percent? We don't know. That hasn't been negotiated. But what this administration is saying is that we will play a substantial role in the diversity of military equipment for these new partners in NATO.

So how much is the real cost? And, again, shouldn't we know before we are asked to vote?

In closing, Mr. President, let me emphasize that I do not believe we are yet ready in this Senate to give this matter the full debate that it deserves and that we must hear on this issue. If we had to vote on NATO expansion on the basis of the information we now have, I would vote no, and I know that there are many others in this body who would vote no.

I look forward to a full, detailed and lengthy debate on the issue at the appropriate time. The appropriate time is when the Senate is fully knowledgeable on the issue of NATO expansion as they take up one of their most important constitutional responsibilities: the advice and consent on these critical issues. I yield the floor.

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes.

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

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Idaho for his thoughtful comments. He started his

comments by saying that this is a matter to which many of the Senators have not given very thorough consideration, and I think that is accurate. I certainly fall into that category.

I am not on either of the major committees that deal with the expansion of NATO. Like all Senators, I am busy with this or that. It seems to me very wise that we all give this matter some thorough consideration. It is my understanding that the majority leader is anxious to bring up the NATO expansion legislation quite soon.

I just want to say, speaking for just this Senator, I certainly haven't concentrated on it. I look forward to reading the op-ed piece—I believe it was an op-ed piece—that Senator Baker and others worked on.

All I can say is, I am grateful for the comments that the Senator from Idaho made, because it is wise for all of us—I personally haven't made up my mind on this. I am astonished that I haven't been lobbied, not that my vote is a key vote on it, but on this matter, the former Senator from New Hampshire came by to see me. He is very concerned. I am speaking of Senator Humphrey, a former Senator from New Hampshire. He is very concerned about the expansion of NATO. I think he presented some good arguments on it. Perhaps he has also spoken with the Senator from Idaho.

Again, I thank the Senator for his thoughts.

Mr. CRAIG. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. CHAFEE. I certainly will.

Mr. CRAIG. I thank the chairman for those comments. One of the measurements I always use on issues of this gravity and importance, and especially if I do not know a great deal about them, is when there are men and women on both sides of the issue whom I respect, it demands that I begin to review it in great detail. That is what I am hearing from the Senator, that when you have the likes of Howard Baker, and a former Secretary of State, and you have Sam Nunn and a good many others on the other side of the issue who are certainly knowledgeable, I think it is time for the Senate to focus and for our colleagues to begin to try to deal with this issue, and that is why I am here. I thank the Senator for his comments.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRIST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Cheryle Tucker, a detailee from the Department of Transportation who is working with my staff, be given floor privileges during the ISTEA debate.

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

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Christopher Prins, a fellow with Senator LIEBERMAN's office, be granted floor privileges during the consideration of the ISTEA legislation, S. 1173.

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

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak for about 12 minutes as in morning business.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. THOMAS. I also ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be extended to Steve Shackelton, a detailee on my staff from the U.S. Park Service, during my statement today.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. THOMAS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1693 are located in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ANNA TREBIL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to recognize a very special constituent of mine, Anna Trebil. Today—Friday, February 27, 1998—is Anna's 100th birthday.

Born and raised in Sanborn County, South Dakota, Anna is a true South Dakotan. She is a pioneer and a valued community member. She has lived her entire life in the state and currently resides in Mitchell, South Dakota. Having never spent a day of her life in the hospital, Anna has been blessed with outstanding health which has contributed greatly to her strong and enduring spirit.

I join her children, her 7 grandchildren, her great grandchild and her many friends in wishing Anna Trebil a very happy 100th birthday.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, February 26, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,525,033,799,622.62 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-five billion, thirty-three million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, six hundred twenty-two dollars and sixty-two cents).

One year ago, February 26, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,345,590,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred forty-five billion, five hundred ninety million).

Five years ago, February 26, 1993, the Federal debt stood at \$4,197,003,000,000 (Four trillion, one hundred ninety-seven billion, three million).

Ten years ago, February 26, 1988, the Federal debt stood at \$2,473,373,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred seventy-three billion, three hundred seventy-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, February 26, 1973, the Federal debt stood at \$453,599,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-three billion, five hundred ninety-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,071,404,799,622.62 (Five trillion, seventy-one billion, four hundred four million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, six hundred twenty-two dollars and sixty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 493. An act to amend section 1029 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to cellular telephone cloning paraphernalia.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration on February 26, 1998, following the adoption of the motion to proceed to the bill (S. 1173) to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes:

S. 1663. A bill to protect individuals from having their money involuntarily collected and used for politics by a corporation or labor organization.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GORTON:

S. 1691. A bill to provide for Indian legal reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1692. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide software trade secrets protection; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 1693. A bill to renew, reform, reinvigorate, and protect the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. KYL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. MACK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REID, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. COATS):

S. Res. 186. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GORTON:

S. 1691. A bill to provide for Indian legal reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

AMERICAN INDIAN EQUAL JUSTICE ACT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I introduce the American Indian Equal Justice Act and ask unanimous consent that the full text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1691

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "American Indian Equal Justice Act".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) a universal principle of simple justice and accountable government requires that all persons be afforded legal remedies for violations of their legal rights;

(2) the fifth amendment of the Constitution builds upon that principle by guaranteeing that "... no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law";

(3) sovereign immunity, a legal doctrine that has its origins in feudal England when it was policy that the "King could do no wrong", affronts that principle and is incompatible with the rule of law in democratic society;

(4) for more than a century, the Government of the United States and the States have dramatically scaled back the doctrine of sovereign immunity without impairing their dignity, sovereignty, or ability to conduct valid government policies;

(5) the only remaining governments in the United States that maintain and assert the full scope of immunity from lawsuits are Indian tribal governments;

(6) according to the 1990 decennial census conducted by the Bureau of the Census, nearly half of the individuals residing on Indian reservations are non-Indian;

(7) for the non-Indian individuals referred to in paragraph (6) and the thousands of people of the United States, Indian and non-Indian, who interact with tribal governments everyday, the rights to due process and legal remedy are constantly at risk because of tribal immunity;

(8) by providing a complete shield from legal claims, the doctrine of sovereign immunity frustrates justice and provokes social tensions and turmoil inimical to social peace;

(9) the Supreme Court has affirmed that Congress has clear and undoubted constitutional authority to define, limit, or waive the immunity of Indian tribes; and

(10) it is necessary to address the issue referred to in paragraph (9) in order to—

(A) secure the rights provided under the Constitution for all persons; and

(B) uphold the principle that no government should be above the law.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to assist in ensuring due process and legal rights throughout the United States and to strengthen the rule of law by making Indian tribal governments subject to judicial review with respect to certain civil matters.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian tribe" means any Indian tribe or band with a governing body duly recognized by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) TRIBAL IMMUNITY.—The term "tribal immunity" means the immunity of an Indian tribe from jurisdiction of the courts, judicial review of an action of that Indian tribe, and other remedies.

SEC. 3. COLLECTION OF STATE TAXES.

Section 1362 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" before "The district courts";

(2) by inserting "(referred to in this section as an 'Indian tribe')" after "Interior"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(b)(1) An Indian tribe, tribal corporation, or member of an Indian tribe, shall collect, and remit to a State, any excise, use, or sales tax imposed by the State on nonmembers of the Indian tribe as a consequence of the purchase of goods or services by the nonmember from the Indian tribe, tribal corporation, or member.

"(2) A State may bring an action in a district court of the United States to enforce the requirements under paragraph (1).

"(3) To the extent necessary to enforce this subsection with respect to an Indian tribe, tribal corporation, or member of an Indian tribe, the tribal immunity of that Indian tribe, tribal corporation, or member is waived."

SEC. 4. INDIAN TRIBES AS DEFENDANTS.

(a) PROVISIONS TO PARALLEL THE PROVISIONS THAT ARE POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE TUCKER ACT.—Section 1362 of title 28, United States Code, as amended by section 3, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) The district courts of the United States shall have original jurisdiction in any