

I apologize, albeit much too late, to my primary opponent who stood in opposition to the line-item veto. And this was a matter of difference between the two of us in the primary. I think I made some progress because as we got near the vote he recanted and came to my side so as to try to get the people who were in favor of a line-item veto to vote for him instead of me.

But I believe the arguments that have been repeated here, the information given here from the decision of the judge, are sufficiently persuasive that I need to make this apology and this recanting of a previous position. While I may not be with my two colleagues on many other matters, I try to be with them on constitutional matters.

It is on this basis that I opposed a constitutional amendment regarding flag burning. That puts me at odds with my senior colleague from Utah, which always distresses me. It is for this purpose that I oppose McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform because I think it is unconstitutional. I believe the courts have ruled in similar cases that the guts of the McCain-Feingold bill is in fact an intrusion on the first amendment.

But I think there is no more important function that we have in this Chamber, whatever our disagreements on the specifics, than the function of protecting the Constitution against the whims of the hour.

And so I thank Senator BYRD and Senator MOYNIHAN for their scholarship and for their leadership on this issue, and I, as one Senator at least on the other side of the issue, throw in the towel, eat a little crow, and declare my willingness to escape from a previous position.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield very briefly?

Mr. BENNETT. I am happy to yield.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator for his remarks.

Diogenes walked the streets of Athens in broad daylight with his lighted lantern. He was asked why. He answered, "I am looking for a man." Plato, when visiting Sicily, was asked by Hiero, the tyrannical head of the Government, why he came to Sicily. He said, "I am seeking an honest man."

May I say, Mr. President, today I have found an honest man—the distinguished Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the Senator from West Virginia. There could be no higher tribute. I am grateful to him.

Mr. MOYNIHAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. May I add, not only honest but a courageous man. In some 21 years on the Senate floor I have not heard a more refreshing and inspiring statement. It is not surprising coming from the Senator from Utah, but it is all the more amazing. There are few places in this world today where such a statement could be made and praised.

It is a tribute to you, sir; also a tribute to the U.S. Army, I believe. But we

will not get into that. I thank you for your remarks, sir.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the senior Senator from New York. Both of my senior friends are far too lavish in their praise, but I will accept it anyway in the spirit of the moment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes, and further that Senator DORGAN have the 1 hour that has been allotted to him following at the end of my 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing none, without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Thank you, Mr. President.

RUSSIAN TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO ROGUE NATIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today's article from today's Washington Post is yet more indication, unfortunately, of the bad faith with which Russia has been dealing with us on the transfer of sensitive technology to rogue nations, particularly, dual use and missile technology.

I am on the Foreign Affairs Committee and chair the Middle East Subcommittee. And something that has been very troubling to me is the introduction into the Middle East, particularly into Iran and into Iraq, of technology that can be used for missile development, for use of the delivery of weapons of mass destruction, even the development of weapons of mass destruction like biological warfare, biological and chemical warfare weapons.

Evidence was in the Washington Post, again, today, that once again—not just the first time—but once again Russian companies, with links to the Government, were involved in violating the U.N. authorized embargo on sales to Iraq of dual-use equipment. And this is outrageous. And it is preposterous that they would be doing it.

The transfer to Iraq—which is a rogue nation, with a leader who does not operate under internationally recognized civilized codes—of any dual-use technology is unacceptable. And yet once again today we have another example.

The transfer of equipment, such as the fermentation equipment, which was alluded to today, which can be used to develop biological weapons, and the possible collusion with the Iraqis against UNSCOM to hide technology and weapons, is proof of a cynical bad faith which is untenable. If this information is true—and I am told it is well grounded—the Russians are making a mockery of a very serious issue, and, more importantly, they are putting U.S. forces at increased risk.

This type of behavior has immense implications for a policy towards Iran as well and the administration's efforts to curb these sales of equipment that can be used to deliver or to develop

weapons of mass destruction. This cynicism should not be rewarded.

I understand that we have been holding up Senate bill 1311, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act, in deference to the Russians to give them time to prove their good faith and in deference to the Vice President's meeting with them in March. In view of the latest developments and this information, I believe such deference is misplaced. I request that Senate bill 1311 be moved up on the Senate calendar. I will make that request known to the leadership and ask that they proceed forward because this "good faith" that we are offering has obviously been received in a way of making bad-faith steps by the Russians and is further proof today this cannot be allowed to continue. Every day it is allowed to continue, more and more U.S. lives are at risk. It cannot be allowed to continue.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 10 minutes as in morning business. I do that with the agreement of the Senator from North Dakota.

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

SITUATION IN IRAQ

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the Secretaries of Defense and State have been pursuing political support, both in the Congress and among our allies, for the use of military force against Iraq.

I come to the floor today to express my support for a military strike against Iraq and to urge our colleagues and our allies to join us in supporting our troops and our Commander-in-Chief. The unfortunate impasse which has precluded a full and conclusive Senate debate on a formal resolution of support should not be misconstrued. Clearly, when and if the time comes, an overwhelming majority in this body will support decisive action to end the threat to our security that Iraq continues to pose. Saddam Hussein should have no doubt about that.

We in government are frequently accused of demonizing our enemies in order to garner popular support here at home for the kind of actions we are currently contemplating with regard to Iraq. President Bush was accused of doing precisely that during Operation Desert Shield. There is a considerable wealth of information pertaining to Saddam Hussein's years in power, though, that clearly indicates that we are dealing with as ruthless and brutal a dictator as exists anywhere in the world today. That is not demonizing an individual; it is accurately describing a man with the moral and ethical foundation required to employ chemical weapons against his own population; to assassinate any and all political rivals; to have his own sons-in-law executed; to massacre Kurdish populations in the north and Shiite communities in the south; to invade Kuwait and impose a

barbaric occupation of that nation; and to continue to threaten neighboring countries despite the open revulsion with which much of the world has reacted to his years of rule.

This is a regime that recognizes no restraint upon its conduct save that which is imposed by force of arms. As I have repeatedly stated here on the floor of the Senate, the actions for which Saddam Hussein must be held accountable represent nothing more than what is expected of any country that seeks to exist within a community of civilized nations. The Government of Iraq has imposed untold hardships on its people solely so that it can continue to develop and stockpile weapons of mass destruction—weapons that it has no moral compunction about using at the earliest opportunity and against any nation or segment of society.

Linkages are repeatedly made between the U.S. posture toward Iraq and our role in the Middle East peace process. Mr. President, that argument cries out for denunciation at the highest levels of every government. We may not like the way every policy of or tactic by the democratically elected government in Israel, but the physical pain and psychological trauma that afflicted Israel as a result of completely unprovoked missile attacks by an Iraqi regime seeking to tear asunder the multinational coalition arrayed against it and Tel Aviv's refusal to retaliate despite ample justification for doing so stands in strong contrast to the Government of Iraq. There is no basis for comparison, and U.S. policy toward Iraq should not legitimize the perception of linkage by deferring to it.

The United Nations must enforce its resolutions and do so with conviction. And this body must acknowledge that only the United States possesses the capability to conduct the kind of military operations most of us agree are warranted and essential. That means conveying to the President, to the American people, and to the world, the message that Congress stands firmly behind the Commander-in-Chief in carrying out his responsibility to ensure that the threat to regional stability posed by Iraq is not permitted to endure in perpetuity.

Mr. President, we should make clear to the American people and to the world that the Congress agrees with the proposition that evil should not be permitted to triumph. The United States must respond forcefully, far more so than it has in the past, to Iraq's unceasing provocations and it must adopt whatever measures will ensure the removal from power of the ruling regime in Baghdad.

We must prepare the groundwork for a process that may take years to bear fruit and that will certainly entail loss of life. Opposition forces friendly to and supported by the United States were badly decimated by Iraq's 1996 incursion into supposedly protected territory in northern Iraq. Survivors are

understandably bitter and reluctant to cast their lot with us again. That is why the air and missile strikes we launch against Iraq must be decisive and not the kind of exceedingly limited response characterized by the 27 cruise missiles launched against targets unrelated to that violation of the northern exclusion zone.

We must support a long-term operation involving opposition forces trained and equipped to conduct a successful revolution. This is not an easy course that I and others are recommending. But it is the only viable approach to removing a threat to the most volatile region in the world—a threat that could include the brandishing of chemical, biological, and some day, nuclear weapons. That is not a situation any of us want to see develop. But develop it will, if we do not act to prevent it.

Mr. President, I am confident the Congress will soon have the opportunity to express formally its support for the use of force to respond to that threat. Were there another way, I would gladly accept it, but experience teaches that there is not. I would never want to see myself viewed as beating the drums of war, but I would rather live with that image than look into the mirror and see a Member of Congress who failed to do his duty of supporting our troops in harm's way and our Commander-in-Chief in taking the kind of measures I sincerely believe are necessary to resolve the Iraqi problem once and for all.

Mr. President, I again express my appreciation for the courtesy of the Senator from North Dakota in allowing me to make this statement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to thank the distinguished floor leader of the Democratic caucus, the Senator from North Dakota, for allocating this time to talk about something that is very important.

I also want to commend as well the Senator from Arizona for his comments about Iraq. Certainly his experience and his leadership for these many years carries special weight with people on both sides of the aisle. I hope that we can continue to demonstrate the spirit that he has articulated today as we deal with this grave situation in that faraway place.

NEW SOLUTIONS FOR A NEW CENTURY: 1998 DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, 10 days ago, the President delivered to Congress the first balanced budget in 30 years.

Yesterday we learned that the Federal deficit actually will be gone by the end of this year, four years ahead of schedule.

That remarkable accomplishment was set in motion five years ago, when congressional Democrats joined the administration to return fiscal discipline to Washington.

Because we did the right thing five years ago, our economy is stronger today than it's been in a generation.

Our foundation is solid.

Now we need to build on that foundation.

For the last six months, congressional Democrats have worked with the administration to develop a unified agenda for the American people. We talked a lot about what the options were, and what our priorities should be. After a great deal of deliberation, we agreed on a series of proposals that merit—that really demand—our action this year.

This morning, House and Senate Democrats met with the President and the Vice President and senior White House officials to ratify those proposals and begin the process of translating them into action, to confront real problems facing the American people with real solutions.

We call our agenda "New solutions for a New Century." These proposals address the most urgent concerns facing the American people today. We want to reach across the aisle and work with our Republican colleagues to adopt them this year.

We need to increase the take-home pay of America's families. By breaking the wage cycle that continues to pay working women 71 cents on every \$1 that a man earns. By making child care safer and more affordable. And by raising the minimum wage by \$1 an hour over the next 2 years.

We need to make America's public schools the best in the world. By hiring 100,000 new teachers so we can reduce the average class size to 18 students per classroom in the first three grades. By making sure that every school in America is connected to the Internet so that computer screens are as common in classrooms as blackboards. And, by helping communities repair or replace school buildings that are overcrowded or obsolete or downright dangerous.

We also need to protect our children this year from the deadly epidemic of smoking. We need to say that the days when tobacco companies can spend millions of dollars to get kids hooked on cigarettes are over. From now on, they will pay to keep kids away from cigarettes.

America's families need to know their health insurance will be there when they need it, that they can go to a hospital emergency room when and where they need to. They need to know they can see a medical specialist if they need one. And they need to know that the things they tell their doctor in confidence will be kept confidential. We can give them that peace of mind this year by passing our Patient's Bill of Rights.

America's families need to be able to plan for their retirement. They need stronger private pension plans that are portable and protected. They deserve assurances that Medicare and Social Security will be there when they need