

the United States of America, the hospitals that provide health care for U.S. Army servicemen have saved lives. Those people are Government employees. You could change lives, enrich lives, improve lives. That is what it ought to be about.

We need to improve the Government and make it operate more effectively, but we need to tell the American citizens there is no free lunch in this deal. This Government in this country cannot be any better than our people are willing to make it. Our people are willing to make it a heck of a lot better than we allow.

We are frightened of universal health care. We got our brains beat out in 1993 and 1994. We do not want to talk about it. The American people want to talk about it. We do not want to talk about fixing the costs of entitlements based on facts and truth as the Speaker calls for. We know if we give the facts and truth, we have to do Social Security, we have to change eligibility age, we have to change the method of eligibility.

Instead of working Republican and Democrats, I just hope that in the next 60 days or however long it takes to do this deal, rather than looking to always negotiate with the White House and try to cut a deal—I fear that more than I do anything right now—look across the aisle and work with us.

We are prepared to cast the tough votes. We want to embrace the future. We are not for the status quo. We are for change. We want to alter the course of our Nation's future and give investments to our children and be able to give them a brighter future than they have right now.

We are prepared, I believe, to cast the tough votes to change the course of this Nation's future, not based upon some calculation of triangulation, trying to determine whether the President is more popular or less popular, trying to figure how to get reelected, but trying to decide what is best for the people we represent, and most important what is best for our future.

Every single day of our lives has Americans—I do not care what your status is, what your name is, where you live—not a bad exercise to do as opposed to jogging is get up in the morning and go to bed at night and thank God for the things we have. We are a wealthy Nation, blessed with enormous freedoms and opportunities.

I got out of high school in 1961. The cold war was on and our class thought whether we would go in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps because we knew we were likely to go to Vietnam.

That is not the future of today. There is tremendous opportunity. Seize that opportunity rather than hyperventilate and exaggerating each other's position. Seize the opportunities and try to put in place a change in the law that sends this Nation in a different direction, that does not just balance the budget but satisfies other needs and concerns and desires that the American people have today.

I yield the floor.

REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 1995 third quarter mass mailings is October 25, 1995. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states: "none."

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records Office on (202) 224-0322.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, I come to the floor to inform my colleagues that at noon today the administration will announce that the United States, the United Kingdom, and France will sign the three protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear-free Zone Treaty [SPNFZ], known as the Treaty of Rarotonga. I wholeheartedly welcome that decision.

The SPNFZ, which took effect in 1986, is signed by Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands, and the Solomon Islands. The treaty includes three protocols which are open to signature by nuclear countries outside the region. Protocol I prohibits any nuclear power with territories in the zone from manufacturing, stationing, or testing any nuclear device within those territories. Protocol II commits the protocol signatory not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any treaty signatory. Finally, Protocol III commits each protocol signatory not to test a nuclear explosive device anywhere in the zone. While no nuclear power has adhered to Protocol I, both Russia and the People's Republic of China have adhered to Protocols II and III.

The SPNFZ is modeled after the Latin American Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which includes two protocols open to signature by the nuclear powers. While the United States is a signatory to both the Tlatelolco protocols, we have not signed the similar Rarotonga protocols. The reason appears to have been the tendency of the western nuclear powers to be hesitant to sign on unilaterally. Although both we and the British appeared to be amenable to signing, because of French interests we refrained from doing so.

The continued obstinacy of the French, coupled with their decision to go ahead with France's announced nuclear tests in the South Pacific, caused

me great concern for several reasons. First, I believed that a resumption of testing would result in the disintegration of the current testing moratorium and a renewal of underground testing by other states. Moratoria are like truces—they are only good as long as all the parties to them observe their provisions. Second, it called into question France's commitment to the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. In May, the world's five announced nuclear powers persuaded the rest of the world to extend indefinitely the NPT. To win that consensus, the five promised to sign a comprehensive test ban treaty [CTBT] by the end of 1996. I believed strongly that the resumption of French testing, only 4 months after France signed the agreement, called into serious question its commitment to the CTBT and threatened to undermine international efforts to curb proliferation. Finally, the decision was vehemently opposed by most, if not all, of the countries in the region.

As a result of these concerns, on August 10 the distinguished ranking minority member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator PELL, and I wrote President Clinton asking him

... to give serious consideration to an early decision to seek Senate advice and consent to ratification of the protocols to the Treaty. The timetable of such action would be consistent with the achievement of a complete ban in 1996. It would send a clear signal to the French that, while we commend their decision to join in a compete test ban next year, they should accede now to the overwhelming sentiment of the peoples of the South Pacific that there should be no further testing of any nuclear explosive devices in the region. Moreover, it would send an unequivocal message to regional nations that we support them in their desire to make their zone nuclear-free. Finally, it is important to give substance to the commitments we gave the regional nations when they supported the U.S. this spring in the effort in New York to secure the permanent extension of the [NPT].

The announcement today is an important step toward achieving a ban by the end of 1996. While I would like to think that our letter had something to do with the decision—and here I would like to commend the distinguished senior Senator from Rhode Island for his efforts in that regard—I must realistically credit the Government of France with making the agreement possible. France was the only country testing nuclear weapons in the zone, and had maintained that they would not join the protocols until the entry into force of the CTBT. Their decision to join us in signing the protocols represents in my mind a major step forward in our drive towards 1996. I would hope that the parties would move quickly to sign the protocols, and pledge to respect them pending each country's ratification process.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.