

Government and their leader, Mu'ammar Qadhafi, who is refusing to allow those suspects to be tried in the United States or in Scottish or in British courts.

Were we to have an international criminal court, there is at least a chance that those individuals would be extradited to be tried in an international criminal court. Perhaps if such a court were in existence, Qadhafi would find another reason for declining to allow that trial to take place, but at least it would provide a possible alternative for such a trial.

The rule of law is indispensable, Mr. President, in a civilized society. We have benefited enormously in those countries which do have the rule of law. It is a high priority in the United States, obviously, with our constitutional rights.

We should have established an international criminal court a long time ago. It has been on the horizon. It has received favorable comment from the U.S. Senate and from the House on sense-of-the-Congress resolutions. But we ought to be moving to really put it into effect. With the Bosnian war crimes tribunal, we have a chance to advance the rule of law internationally. So I do hope that we will see to it that the request made by the international tribunal on war crimes to have the surrender of these indicted suspects be made as a condition to any peace accord that will take place.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMPSON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). The Chair recognizes the Senator from Wyoming.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SIMPSON. What is the parliamentary situation, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair advises the Senator from Wyoming that morning business was to have closed at 1 o'clock, although the Senator would have an option to extend it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I do not like to do that, and do not do it often at all; however, I will do so.

I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed an additional 35 minutes.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the Chair because I know full well that it is the staff that needs the recess as much as we do. I cannot tell you how much we appreciate what they do for us, especially when we have had a week where there were 39 rollcall votes one day and some 20 the next or the day before, everybody back behind these halls that we do not see, the reporters—I never like to take advantage of that. But I have an important measure, Mr. President.

(The remarks of Mr. SIMPSON and Mrs. FEINSTEIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1394 are located in to-

day's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, JESSE BROWN

Mr. SIMPSON. Let me just now refer briefly to my work on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I chaired that committee.

Mr. President, each and every day the Secretary of Veterans Affairs apparently greets his employees with a memo on their computer. Usually that memo recognizes the accomplishments of individual employees, notes the significance of a particular date in terms of this country's military history, or exhorts VA employees to a higher level of service to America's veterans. Nothing at all wrong with that.

But, on August 21, the Secretary took a leap beyond that boundary. In that day's message, he launched into his old stump speech about the woeful VA budget. About the same time, he also communicated with all VA employees by means of a similar message printed on their own personal pay stub.

I ask unanimous consent that these messages be printed in the RECORD.

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

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY JESSE BROWN
PRINTED ON A RECENT VA EMPLOYEE PAY
VOUCHER

The Administration and the Congress have outlined dramatically different budget approaches designed to balance the budget, reduce taxes, and create a leaner government. As I have been telling the nation's veterans organizations this summer, the Administration's plan is much better for veterans and their families. The President recommended a good FY 1996 VA budget, with a \$1.3 billion increase, including nearly \$1 billion for health care. On the other hand, the House of Representatives has approved a plan to increase veterans health care \$563 million by taking money from our construction account and preventing us from building badly needed hospitals in Florida and California, hospitals which the President proposed be fully funded. And we will lose some of the money we need to renovate older facilities. The House also voted to stop compensation to some incompetent veterans. This is nothing but a means test that will push some service-connected veterans into poverty. We hear a lot these days about making sacrifices. We need to point out that veterans and their families have already paid their dues.

SECRETARY BROWN'S MESSAGE SENT AUGUST 21, 1995

This is what our veterans' budget future boils down to: the President has proposed a 10-year plan to eliminate the deficit, while protecting critical programs. He has proposed no new cuts in veterans entitlements. Congress has adopted a budget resolution outlining a 7-year plan to eliminate the deficit, which would be devastating to veterans' programs. The President has recommended a \$1.3 billion increase in VA's FY96 budget, nearly a billion of which is targeted to veterans' health care. The congressional budget resolution effectively freezes VA funding for veterans' health care at 1995 dollar levels for the next 7 years. This means eliminating

61,000 health care positions by 2002 and denying care to more than a million veterans. The House budget would also cancel plans for two badly needed VA replacement hospitals in central Florida and northern California. When it comes to meeting veterans' needs, gratitude and penny-pinching don't mix.

SECRETARY BROWN'S DAILY MESSAGE ON
OCTOBER 6, 1995

I am being attacked publicly for telling you through various forums what is going on with our budget. Rest assured I do not intend to stop. I believe VA employees had a right to know about the public and Congressional debate on VA's future and the impact our lawmakers' decisions can have on benefits and services for veterans. Is this a partisan endeavor? Absolutely not! As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, I have a responsibility to keep you informed on issues that affect your careers, livelihood and roles as members of the VA team. And certainly I have the right to let our valued constituency—veterans and their families—know that their programs may be adversely affected. It is important that employees be made fully aware that tens of thousands of VA jobs may be eliminated over the next seven years as a result of current budget proposals. I am not calling on you to act, but I think you have the right to know the facts. Stay tuned!

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, these messages, and their distribution to all VA employees, are highly political, and seem to me to be wholly inappropriate.

They all state a biased, partisan perspective of the Department's budget and its implications. This is a perspective with which I wholeheartedly disagree.

Nothing new in that either. Reasonable men can disagree.

However, my disagreement regarding the effects of the Congressional budget for veterans' programs is fully supported by a General Accounting Office [GAO] analysis of the budget conducted for the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

GAO documented that, on the merits themselves, Secretary Brown's criticisms of the VA budget which was approved by the Congress are indeed "exaggerated."

GAO also points out that if Secretary Brown were to analyze the President's budget using the same assumptions he used when he analyzed the budget approved by the Congress, he would find that veterans are better off under the Congressional budget—than under the President who appointed him.

In short, Mr. President, veterans should not be misled. Veterans are better off under the budget that Secretary Brown is attacking than they are under the President's budget he is defending.

Please hear that clearly. The VA knows this. The Secretary knows this.

Secretary Brown complains that the Congress will force him to close hospitals. What he doesn't tell us, and what he doesn't tell the VA employees who are pretty much compelled to read his daily ration of propaganda, is that, using the very same pessimistic assumptions, the President's own budget would require him to close 6 additional hospitals than he would have to close