

You know, the Taoiseach has been not only a good friend to me in our work for peace, but a good friend to the United States. Indeed, he and Finola actually came to Washington, D.C. to celebrate their honeymoon. I think it's fair to say that his honeymoon there lasted longer than mine did. (Laughter and applause.)

I managed to get even with at least one member of Congress—or former member of Congress—when I convinced Senator Mitchell to give into the entreaties of the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister to head this arms decommissioning group. Now, there's any easy job for you. (Laughter.) You know, in Ireland I understand there's a—our American country music is very popular—Garth Brooks said the other day he sold more records in Ireland than any other place in the world outside America. So I told Senator Mitchell today that—he was telling me what a wonderful day we had yesterday in Derry and Belfast, and what a wonderful day we had today in Dublin, and I said, "Yes, now you get to go to work." I said, this reminds me of that great country song, "I Got the Gold Mine and You Got the Shaft." (Laughter and applause.) But if anybody can bring out more gold, George Mitchell can. (Laughter.)

I want to thank the Taoiseach for the courage he showed in working with the Prime Minister of Great Britain, from the day he took office, taking up from his predecessor, Albert Reynolds, right through this remarkable breakthrough that he and Prime Minister Major made on the twin tracks that he helped to forge just two days ago. This is an astonishing development really because it is the first formulation anyone has come up with that permits all views to be heard, all voices to speak, all issues to be dealt with, without requiring people to give up the positions they have taken at the moment. We are very much in your debt.

This has been an experience like none I have ever had before. Yesterday, John Hume, who's joined us, took me home to Derry with him. And I thought to myself—all my life "Danny Boy" has been my favorite song—I never thought I'd get to go there to hear it. But thanks to John, I did.

And then we were before in Belfast. And all of you, I'm sure, were so moved by those two children who introduced me, reading excerpts from the letters. You know, I've got thousands and thousands of letters from Irish children telling me what peace means to them. One thing I am convinced of as I leave here—that there is a global hunger among young people for their parents to put down the madness of war in favor of their childhood. (Applause.)

I received this letter from a teenager right here in Dublin. I thought I would read it to you, to make the point better than I could. This is just an excerpt: "With your help, the chances given to reason and to reasonable people, so that the peace in my country becomes reality. What is lost is impossible to bring back. Children who were killed are gone forever. No one can bring them back. But for all those who survive these sufferings, there is future."

The young person from Dublin who wrote me that was Zlata Filipovic, the young teenager from Bosnia who is now living here, who wrote her wonderful diary that captured the imagination of people all over the world.

I am honored that at this moment in the history of the world the United States has had the great good fortune to stand for the future of children in Ireland, in Bosnia, in the Middle East, in Haiti and on the toughest streets of our own land. And I thank you here in Ireland for taking your stand for those children's future, as well.

Let me say in closing that in this 150th anniversary of the Great Famine, I would like

everyone in the world to pay tribute to Ireland for coming out of the famine with perhaps a greater sense of compassion for the fate of people the world over than any other nation. I said today in my speech to the Parliament that there had not been a single, solitary day—not one day—since 1958, when someone representing the government of Ireland was not somewhere in the world trying to aid the cause of peace. I think there is no other nation on Earth that can make that claim.

And as I leave I feel so full of hope for the situation here in Ireland and so much gratitude for you, for what you have given to us. And I leave you with these words, which I found as I was walking out the door from the Ambassador's Residence. The Ambassador made it possible for Hillary and me to spend a few moments this evening with Seamus Heaney and his wife, since I have been running around the country quoting him for two days. (Laughter.) I might say, without his permission. (Laughter.) And he gave Hillary an inscribed copy of his book "The Cure At Troy." And as I skimmed through it, I found these words, with which I leave you:

"Now it's high water mark, and flood tide in the heart and time to go. What's left to say? Suspect too much sweet talk, but never close your mind. It was a fortunate wind that blew me here. I leave half ready to believe that a cripple's trust might walk and the half-true rhyme is love."

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

I thought I had done something for a moment to offend the Taoiseach—he was forcing me on water instead of wine. (Laughter.)

Let me now, on behalf of every American here present, bathed in the generosity and the hospitality of Ireland, offer this toast to the Taoiseach and Mrs. Bruton and to the wonderful people of this great Republic.

(A toast is offered.) (Applause.)

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL CONFERENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the action of the House Members on the telecommunications bill conference this morning should send tremors through the Internet community and defenders of the first amendment. They agreed to a provision that would effectively ban constitutionally protected speech on the Internet.

If this amendment becomes law, no longer will Internet users be able to engage in freewheeling discussions in news groups and other areas on the Internet accessible to minors. They will have to limit all language used and topics discussed to that appropriate for kindergarteners, just in case a minor clicks onto the discussion. No literary quotes from racy parts of "Catcher in the Rye" or "Ulysses" will be allowed. Certainly, online discussions of safe sex practices, of birth control methods, and of AIDS prevention methods will be suspect. Any user who crosses the vague and undefined line of "indecentcy" will be subject to 2 years in jail and fines.

We have already seen the chilling effect that even the prospect of this legislation has had on online service providers. Last week, American On Line deleted the profile of a Vermonter who communicated with fellow breast cancer survivors online. Why? Because, according to AOL, she used the vulgar

word "breast". AOL later apologized and indicated it would permit the use of that word where appropriate.

This is a serious misstep by the House Members of the telecommunications bill conference. I urge the full conference to consider the threat this amendment poses to the future growth of the Internet, and reject it.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on that November evening in 1972 when I was first elected to the Senate, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

It has proved enormously beneficial to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited during the nearly 23 years I have been in the Senate.

Most of them have been concerned about the Federal debt which is slightly in excess of \$11 billion shy of \$5 trillion—which will be exceeded later this year. Of course, Congress is responsible for creating this monstrosity for which the coming generations will have to pay.

The young people and I almost always discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 25, 1992. I wanted to make a matter of daily record the precise size of the Federal debt which, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, December 5, stood at \$4,988,766,009,862.29 or \$18,937.44 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt since my report yesterday—which identified the total Federal debt as of close of business on Monday, December 4, 1995—shows an increase of \$125,665,418.83. That increase, I'm told, is equivalent to the amount of money needed by 215,311 students to pay their college tuitions for 4 years.

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF EXPORT CONTROLS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 100

THE PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

In order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency described and declared in Executive Order No. 12924 of August 19, 1994, and continued on August 15, 1995, necessitated by the expiration of the Export