

that could frustrate or impede the realization of its objectives:

First, the continued investment of new fund receipts, notwithstanding the debt limit, would cause outstanding Treasury debt to exceed the debt limit in an ever increasing amount. This would prohibit Treasury from issuing any other new Treasury debt. Even the rollover of maturing debt would be precluded so long as outstanding debt remained over the debt limit. As a consequence we would face imminent default on all other outstanding obligations.

Because no other new debt could be issued, the bill would also remove Treasury's ability to raise cash to pay benefits from other trust funds, even after a disinvestment of securities held by such funds.

Second, while the bill intends to protect the ability to make payments to fund beneficiaries at times when the debt limit would otherwise preclude such payments, as a practical matter it cannot be assured that the protected payments could actually be made, given the current methods of paying government obligations.

The Federal Reserve's current procedure, when government checks are presented for payment, is to give immediate credit to the presenting bank. Incoming checks are not actually sorted for several days after presentation. There is not presently in place any operational capability that would permit a distinction to be made between protected benefit checks and all other checks being presented for payment.

While the bill would require the Secretary to institute procedures to assure that the protected benefits are paid when due, we estimate that it would take a minimum of three months, and perhaps longer, to institute the changes in the payments system necessary to provide this assurance.

Finally, the protected payment procedures prescribed by this legislation would only be triggered when we were in, or on the brink of, default.

Since the country has never in its history experienced a default, it is impossible to determine whether or to what extent it would be possible for Treasury to sell new debt to the public to make the protected payments.

In such a situation, all other payment obligations of the United States would either be in default or would be "queued up" for payment as cash became available.

We would be pleased to work with the Committee to try to develop legislative language that would carry out the objectives that we share, while avoiding the adverse consequences we see flowing from the language in the current bill.

We continue to believe, however, that the most effective and certain means for assuring that the interests of beneficiaries of Social Security and Medicare—as well as all other trust funds—are fully protected, is promptly to enact a clean permanent increase in the debt limit.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. HAWKE, Jr.,
Under Secretary of the Treasury
for Domestic Finance.

THE BAD DEBT BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, December 14, the Federal debt stood at \$4,989,708,383,241.14, a little more than \$10 billion shy of the \$5 trillion mark, which the Federal debt will exceed in a few weeks.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,941.02 as his or her share of that debt.

THE LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, earlier today, Senator LAUTENBERG responded to a statement I made yesterday regarding the so-called Lautenberg amendment.

In defending this abused program, which has made a farce of the Refugee Act, my friend and colleague claimed that the beneficiaries "have to prove a credible fear" of persecution before they qualify.

Yet, in fact, these people do not have to prove a credible fear of persecution; rather all they have to do is assert a fear of discrimination. Discrimination, Mr. President, is not persecution; and asserting a fear is not proving it. All other refugees in the world who are coming to this country are required to prove a "well-founded fear of persecution."

Senator LAUTENBERG responded to the reports of criminals using this program to enter the United States by saying it wasn't designed to "allow criminals to enter." He said it is the responsibility of the INS and the State Department to prevent criminals from using the program.

I would remind my good friend that when the INS tried its level best to effectively screen these people, representatives of "the groups" went directly to Moscow to insist upon lower standards. Do not blame the Justice and the State Departments alone for this fiasco. "The groups" and their skilled lobbyists created this one from whole cloth.

Senator LAUTENBERG said he was surprised to hear me refer to Russia as our "best friend." Perhaps best friend was a bit of an overstatement, but they are certainly among our friends, and certainly this administration and this President as well as the previous administration have gone out of their way to cultivate friendly relations with that country. Whether it is a best friend or a good friend, there is certainly no justification whatever—at this present day—for some blanket "presumption" of "refugeeness" for any of their citizens who happen to belong to one of several religious groups, some of whose members have been subject to discrimination or even persecution in the past.

However, the most astounding thing the Senator from New Jersey said was that the program ought to be extended for another year. Even if we cut this off today, there are 100,000 of these beneficiaries of the Lautenberg amendment already "in the pipeline." That means that even without an extension we will have 35,000 entering every year for the next 3 years.

I can only reply to my friend that he should read again the article I placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD yesterday, and I respectfully recommend that he should talk to the Immigration Service about the current traffic from Moscow regarding this program.

How can any of us support a program where only one-half of 1 percent of

those applying now could qualify as a "refugee" under the American and the international law definition of "refugee"? We make a mockery of the law if we do so.

Why should the American taxpayer provide our severely limited refugee aid for these persons, who are actually regular "immigrants," not "refugees."

These "asserters" are not even required to prove a well-founded fear of persecution, so we have absolutely no assurance that they are, in fact, refugees. And more importantly please recall that when they do receive permission to enter the United States, they take months, even sometimes more than a year, to decide whether or not they really want to come here.

About 40,000 of them who are authorized to come here are lingering in the former Soviet Union, weighing their options. They are clearly in no hurry. That is what an immigrant ordinarily does—to calmly, and without urging, weigh all the pluses and minuses of staying or going to the United States. A true refugee does not have any possible luxury of such a lengthy, deliberative process. After all they are required to be "fleeing" or have a "well founded fear" of persecution.

Again, I urge the conferees on the State Department reauthorization bill to insist upon the Senate provisions and not continue this misused program any longer.

RETIREMENT OF LEE M. NACKMAN

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to take a few brief moments of the Senate's time to acknowledge the impending retirement of Mr. Lee M. Nackman from Federal service.

For nearly 10 years, Mr. Nackman has served as the Director of the Los Angeles VA Outpatient Clinic. During his tenure, he has taken his clinic from substandard basement quarters to a \$40 million, state-of-the-art, ambulatory care center in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

The constituency served by the clinic brings to it a myriad of medical and psychosocial problems. Many of the veterans care for are homeless, living on the streets literally within sight of Los Angeles' City Hall. In large measure because of his leadership, each of the veterans cared by the clinic is treated with the dignity and respect they have earned through service to their country. This is a difficult patient population, yet Lee Nackman has assured that it is one that is well served by the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system.

Mr. President, on January 3, 1996, Mr. Nackman is ending a distinguished 35-year career of service to America's veterans. He began as a pharmacy intern at the Manhattan VA Medical Center upon completion of his B.S. degree from Columbia University. While working as a pharmacy resident at what is now the West Los Angeles VA Medical

Center, he completed his M.Sc. degree at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy.

Throughout his career with the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs, he has held a series of positions of ever increasing responsibility in pharmacy and in health care management, to include 2 years as Assistant Director of the VA hospital in Sheridan, WY.

While in Los Angeles, Mr. Nackman has chaired the Southern California and Southern Nevada network of the Veterans Health Administration. His leadership was instrumental in creating a more integrated, more patient focused approach to caring for the more than 1.7 million veterans residing in that area. This network approach to providing health care has served as a model for the national reorganization of VA health care delivery into Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

Mr. Nackman currently chairs the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board, in which capacity he has shown leadership in encouraging a range of Federal partnerships which assure the provision of services administered by all Federal agencies in a more efficient and effective manner. This country's taxpayers deserve no less.

Mr. President, Lee Nackman has brought honor and dignity to the status of Federal employee. He has contributed to all that is good about those in Government who provide goods and services to our citizens, and most significantly, to the veterans he has so directly cared for over the 35 years of his distinguished career. Those of us who care deeply about this Nation's veterans can but thank those men and women, like Lee Nackman, who have dedicated themselves to the service of veterans. It is fitting that we recognize that service today. It is also appropriate that we express our thanks to Lee Nackman—and indeed, to so many dedicated public servants, the best of whom he represents—at this, the moment of his retirement.

Mr. President, I know all in this body join with me in this valedictory. We wish Lee Nackman many years of a satisfying retirement. During that time he can truly look back upon a job well done.

NORDY HOFFMANN—A GREAT AMERICAN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the December 13, 1995, edition of the Hill included an article written by Ron Martinson paying special tribute to F. Nordhoff Hoffmann. It is a fine piece that captures perfectly the man we all know as Nordy. Mr. Martinson takes us through the various and varied stages of Nordy's life revealing a remarkable example of one person's contribution to his family, his college, his colleagues and his country.

I have known Nordy for many years. His service to this institution, most notably as Sergeant at Arms, is well-

known and remains a standard to which all who fill that position are compared. While Nordy's tenure in the Senate was as a Democrat, his ability to transcend party and politics was extraordinary and one pattern I often wish was emulated more regularly. Nordy's empathy for everyone from Senators to staff was truly uncommon. To put it simply Nordy, throughout his life, has always been a caring individual and an excellent role model. It has been sometime since I have seen Nordy, and I am deeply saddened by news of his ill health, but I wanted to take this opportunity to call attention to this article and to let Nordy know I am thinking of him and I wish him well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Hill article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:
[From The Hill, Dec. 13, 1995]

NORDY HOFFMANN—AILING FORMER SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS WAS A GIANT FIGURE WITH A HEART TO MATCH

(By Ron Martinson)

P. Nordhoff Hoffmann, known to generations of Notre Dame alumni and members of Congress as "Nordy," was convening his first department head meeting as Senate sergeant at arms in January 1976.

With the directors of a dozen service organizations under his jurisdiction dutifully assembled, Nordy opened the meeting with characteristic directness; "Some of you guys probably think that because Nordy Hoffmann is 67 years old, he won't be around in this job for very long. Well, let me tell you something—my grandfather lived to be 92, so get that out of your damn heads right now."

Hoffmann, who will turn 86 next Tuesday, is seriously ill with cancer. But to anyone who knew him during a lifetime of successes earned by determination and a sense of destiny, he was one of the most remarkable and unforgettable personalities who ever walked the corridors of Capitol Hill.

A huge hulk of a man whose massive frame carried more than 300 pounds before his illness, Nordy's thundering voice could intimidate the most intrepid soul. But underneath was a gentle spirit and big heart that earned Nordy legions of devoted friends.

A native of Seattle, Nordy first achieved distinction as an All-American right guard on Knute Rockne's 1929 and 1930 Notre Dame championship football teams. He had never played the game before Rockne spotted him on campus one day and ordered him to report to practice. He graduated from Notre Dame Law School in 1933 and after several years as assistant coach at his alma mater and a semi-pro football player, he saw service as a World War II Navy officer in the Pacific.

After the war, Nordy was tapped by Philip Murray, president of the United Steelworkers Union, to become the union's legislative director in Washington, a position that quickly immersed him in national Democratic politics. For the next 20 years, he was in the thick of every major labor battle on Capitol Hill, from Taft-Hartley to minimum wage to Medicare.

Nordy received a rare tribute in 1963 when then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson singled him out during a speech at a Democratic dinner and roared, "Nordy Hoffmann knows what I'm talking about because he and Phil Murray and I were fighting for these things way back when. We didn't win but we didn't stop trying because Nordy Hoffmann's not a quitter, and neither am I!"

In 1967, Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) prevailed upon Nordy to become executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and 10 years later, in January 1976, the Democratic majority picked him to succeed William H. Wannall as Senate sergeant at arms.

It took Nordy about two minutes after being sworn in to put his "Let's get it done and help the people" management style into full gear. He engaged everyone in the process, seeking advice from people from senators to janitors about how to make his office more open, productive and helpful.

As Nordy's administrative assistant and the token Republican in his office, I always found him exceptionally open to ideas, including that of putting a "welcome" sign on the door. He was also color blind, as he brought his longtime assistant Barbara Towles with him and made her his executive secretary. She was the first black person to hold this position in the Sergeant at Arms Office.

Nordy was genuinely focused on being a good steward of the resources entrusted to him, and he looked for and found many ways to save money, improve services and streamline operations. But all of those things were only tools to help him achieve his most important goal, which was to provide service for others.

In a town where people often dispense favors and return phone calls based upon the recipient's ability to reciprocate, Nordy would give his shirt to the first person who asked without expecting anything in return. Once, a friend of mine who was working for a junior Republican congressman asked if I knew of any job opportunities for Republicans on the Senate side as his niece was looking for work.

When I suggested he talk to Nordy, he couldn't believe that Nordy would even see him. Not only did Nordy talk to him, but he found the aide's niece a job. That former aide is now a Republican congressman from New York.

Nothing underscores the universal affection for Nordy better than the time he was recommended for induction into the national collegiate football Hall of Fame. An ad hoc committee headed by Don Womack, former superintendent of the Senate Press Gallery, was formed to collect testimonial letters on Nordy's behalf to the judges considering Nordy's nomination.

When I looked at the folder containing copies of the letters that were presented to Nordy as a keepsake, I discovered personally signed letters from Presidents Carter and Ford and Vice Presidents Mondale and Rockefeller, along with those from every one of the 100 senators. Needless to say, Nordy was elected to the Hall of Fame.

But Nordy wasn't just a hero to sports enthusiasts or powerful politicians. Once, when a maid asked me if I could do something about the dirty, dilapidated maids' lounge in the basement of the Capitol, I walked into Nordy's office and stood in front of his desk.

"Nordy, you consider yourself to be a humane employer, don't you?" I declared. He looked at me with a quizzical expression, and as I described what I'd seen, he spun around on his chair and began punching buttons on his phone with his sausage-like fingers.

He gave Tom Ward, the chief engineer in charge of maintenance at the Capitol, an earful about the disgraceful working conditions of his maids, and within two days, Ward had dispatched a team of painters and plasterers to convert the maids' lounge into a clean, pleasant place, making Nordy a hero forever to the maids.

Nordy's legendary kindness didn't stop at the doors of the Capitol. He and his wife Joanne opened their Potomac, Md., home and