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## Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we thank You for this moment of quiet in which we can reaffirm who we are, whose we are, and why we are here. Once again we commit ourselves to You as Sovereign Lord of our lives and our Nation. Our ultimate goal is to please and serve You. You have called us to be servant-leaders who glorify You in seeking to know and to do Your will for what is best for America.

So we spread out before you the specific decisions that must be made today. We claim Your presence all through the day. Guide our thinking and our speaking. May our convictions be based on undeniable truth which has been refined by You.

Bless the women and men of this Senate as they work together to find solutions to the problems before our Nation. Help them to draw on the super-national resources of Your spirit. Grant them divine wisdom, penetrating discernment, and courageous vision.

And when the day draws to a close may our deepest joy be that we received Your best for us and worked together for what is best for our Nation. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. Today, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2937, a bill regarding the White House Travel Office. The Senate will recess between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. today in order to accommodate the respective party luncheons.

Under a previous order, the first vote today will occur at 2:15 p.m. and will be on the cloture motion to the White House Travel Office bill. As a reminder, in conjunction with the cloture vote today, Senators have until 12:30 p.m. to file second-degree amendments to the bill. Other votes are likely throughout the day on H.R. 2937 or any other items cleared for action.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators to speak for not to exceed 5 minutes each, with the following Senators reserving time: The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] is recognized for 60 minutes; the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] is recognized for 15 minutes; the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] is recognized to speak up to 5 minutes.

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

### AMERICA IS ON MY MIND

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair and thank my good friend, the distinguished Senator from Texas, for allowing me to speak for about 5 minutes leading off today. Again, when

we come to this time of the year, America does weigh strongly on everybody's mind, because I rise today to celebrate tax freedom day.

Actually in Montana, it comes around May 3, but I did not get around to getting my work done on time, and I would like to talk about that just a little bit. The average American will work 128 days this year to pay for the Federal, State, and local taxes and sets a new record high for this country at 38.2 percent of his or her yearly income.

Now, think about that a little bit. We wonder why our bank accounts do not grow and our savings accounts are almost nonexistent, and we think about stagnation. It is not really stagnation, it is trying to pay for this moderately huge Government that was talked about back in January by our President who said the era of big government was over, and now he says "it is kind of over."

In my State of Montana, for an average family of four making around \$39,000, \$40,000 a year, to average it out, Federal taxes come to \$7,400. Total State and local taxes are around \$5,700. Mr. President, \$13,216—and this has all been verified—is the tax burden of that family of four living in my State of Montana. One-third—one-third—of the money they earn is going to the support of government. And we wonder where our money goes.

So the President's words ring sort of empty. The words do not match the actions. Then we have to decide whether we want to go on with this kind of rhetoric, because he vetoed the balanced budget, he vetoed the tax cut, he vetoed welfare reform, he vetoed product liability—all those contribute to a mounting, mounting tax burden. Contrary to popular belief, government has not always been big or moderately huge, as this would indicate.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Back in 1925, freedom day was February 6. In 1945, it was April 1. And in 1965, it was April 14. On the average, since World War II, the date has moved up nearly a week every decade.

One has to ask oneself, when does it stop? I know we work on averages in this body, and it seems to me that if you had one foot in a bucket of ice and the other in the oven, on the average you should feel pretty good. But we know that does not always work, that there is somebody who falls through the cracks. Basically, that is what is happening to our society today.

We are all very familiar with the 1993 tax increase, and now is the time to give part of it back to America's working families. The Clinton crunch has to come to an end, despite the rhetoric we hear out of the White House. Taxes must come down, spending must be restrained, and government must be put on a budget, and I mean a balanced budget.

Now is the time to do it. With America on my mind, let us not let another day be added next year to the burden of this year. Let us work to move it back a day or two. Let us dedicate ourselves, because there are a lot who think this is the most important debate of this century, and we need the help of the American people because our country has to figure out a way to eliminate this devastating debt that we are passing on to our young.

Let us put our Government back on a balanced budget. Let us make Government work for the people instead of the other way around.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Thank you, Mr. President.

#### AMERICAN TROOPS IN BOSNIA

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I want to talk today about a matter that concerns all Americans: the presence of 35,000 young American men and women supporting the peace implementation force in Bosnia. Those troops were sent as a part of a NATO force to monitor the Bosnian peace agreement reached in Dayton, OH, last year. The Senate voted last December to support those troops, to provide them whatever they needed to do what they have been asked to do. But in the resolution submitted by the distinguished Republican leader, Senator DOLE, and Senator MCCAIN of Arizona, the Senate also said by a margin of 69 to 30 that it does not endorse the President's decision or the agreement reached in Dayton.

The House of Representatives was even more harsh. The House voted 287 to 141 to condemn the Dayton agreement, while expressing support for the troops that have been sent on this mission.

There is never a doubt that we will support fully American troops any-

where when they are performing a mission for this country. We will always be there for them. But, Mr. President, that does not mean we cannot question the policy, and this Senate and the House of Representatives did just that.

Many wanted a vote to deny the President the ability to dispatch the troops by withholding the funds needed to pay for such a deployment. That was not the right thing to do, and it failed, as it should have. But, Mr. President, there are many good reasons why we disagreed with the decision to send American troops, even while we acknowledged the President's right to do it.

First, we did not feel that the administration had made a compelling case that there was a national security interest in Bosnia to justify the deployment of tens of thousands of Americans, with the potential loss of American life. Mr. President, that is an essential element of any mission upon which we would embark with troops from our country.

There must be a U.S. security interest for American lives to be at risk. But, more importantly, Mr. President, many of us voiced strong concern that the administration lacked a strategy for removing those troops once they had dug in and become part of the troubled landscape in the troubled country of Bosnia.

What made many of us particularly skeptical was the administration's insistence that not only was there an exit strategy, but that the troops would be able to perform their complex mission of creating two nations from one, patrolling rugged mountain terrain, separating hostile belligerents, and ending a 500-year-old civil war in just 1 year.

In fact, Mr. President, the Dole-McCain resolution that expressed support for the troops and acknowledged the President's authority to deploy them specifically noted that the Senate support was conditioned on the return of those troops to the United States within 1 year.

Mr. President, let me remind my colleagues what senior administration officials, including the President, assured us as we wrestled with the question of whether to support sending young Americans to Bosnia:

On October 13, 1995, Robert Hunter, the U.S. Ambassador to NATO, told the Washington Post:

This is going to be a limited-duration operation—12 months max. We're not going to take responsibility beyond that.

On October 18, 1995, Defense Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the House Committee on National Security and the House Committee on International Relations:

The implementation force will complete its mission in a period not to exceed 12 months. We believe this will be more than adequate to accomplish the needed tasks that will allow the peace to become self-sustaining. We anticipate the IFOR will go in

heavy and, if successful, would begin drawing down significantly far in advance of the final exit date.

On October 18, 1995, Secretary of State Warren Christopher told the House Committee on National Security:

The force would have a limited mission and remain for a limited period of time, approximately 1 year.

On November 28, 1995, President Clinton told the American people in a televised address:

Our Joint Chiefs of Staff have concluded that this mission should—and will—take about 1 year.

Mr. President, none of these knowledgeable officials left any room for doubt that the American mission in Bosnia would be limited in scope and duration. Specifically we were told, with no uncertainty, by everyone from the U.S. Ambassador to NATO, to the President of the United States, that our troops would be home within 1 year.

Mr. President, we now learn this is not so. December 20, 1996, was the date set as the 1-year mark. That is the date that we have been focusing on since the beginning of this mission. We now learn that this administration has said to our allies that it intends to keep American troops in Bosnia at least until early 1997 and, according to the United States Commander of NATO forces, Gen. George Joulwan, maybe longer.

Mr. President, the reason we got into the mission in Bosnia with NATO is because our President told our allies that we would be there with troops on the ground if there was a peace agreement. He told them that a long time ago. Once we make a commitment to our allies, of course, America must stand by the commitment.

But now, Mr. President, we have the dilemma of two commitments. We have the President making a commitment to the American people, to Senator DOLE, and to the troops that are there, that this would be a mission of 1 year. Everyone connected with this mission and with the leadership of this administration has repeatedly said 1 year. Now, Mr. President, we have the President making a different commitment to our allies, saying it is not going to be 1 year, but leaving it rather open-ended, into 1997.

Mr. President, I want to highlight the difference between last year's message from the administration and an April 26, 1996, article in the Washington Post:

"A substantial number of American troops will remain in Bosnia for at least one month after the NATO-led mission ends in December. In a departure from the original plan, NATO commanders have decided to keep a significant force in Bosnia up to the final day of the mission or one year after the peace enforcement began," according to spokesman Kenneth Bacon. Earlier officials had said the pullout would begin at least a few months before the December 20 closing date in order to have nearly everyone out by then. Kenneth Bacon said the change in