

## LET'S DEBATE THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to add my voice to those who have spoken about the need to bring the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC] to the Senate floor for debate at the earliest possible date. As everyone in this body knows, the U.S. Senate must ratify the CWC by April 29, 1997, in order for the United States to become an original party to the convention.

To date, 70 countries have ratified the CWC, and another 161 countries are signatories. The United States has taken a leadership role throughout the negotiations surrounding this treaty, and yet, with time running out, the Senate has not voted on the document that so many Americans have helped to craft.

Time is of the essence in this debate for several reasons. One reason is, of course, the April 29 deadline by which the U.S. Senate must ratify this treaty so that the United States may be a full participant in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons [OPCW], the governing body that will have the responsibility for deciding the terms for the implementation of the CWC.

A second reason is the constitutional responsibility of the Senate to provide its advice and consent on all treaties signed by the President. This treaty was signed by President Bush in January 1993, and was submitted to the Senate by President Clinton in November of that year. Unfortunately, the Senate has not yet fulfilled its responsibility with respect to this treaty.

A third reason, and what I believe is one of the most important, is the need for adequate time for debate of this treaty and its implications for the United States prior to the April 29 deadline for ratification. Many have expressed concern over various provisions in the CWC. Senators should have the opportunity to debate these concerns, and the American people deserve the chance to hear them. Senators will also have the opportunity to voice their concerns during debate of the treaty's implementing legislation, which will most likely be discussed in conjunction with the treaty itself.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I have had the opportunity to participate in hearings on this issue. In all the hearings and deliberations over the efficacy of this treaty, two things have been made crystal clear: First, the CWC is not perfect, and second, the CWC is the best avenue available for beginning down the road to the eventual elimination of chemical weapons.

There are real flaws, as we all recognize, with the verifiability of the CWC. There will be cheating and evasions and attempts to obey the letter but not the spirit of the treaty. But most of the responsible players on the international stage will recognize that through the CWC the world has spoken, and firmly rejected chemical weapons.

The CWC was laboriously crafted over three decades to meet the security and economic interests of states parties. The United States was at the forefront of that effort; the treaty reflects U.S. needs and has the blessing and enthusiastic support of our defense and business communities.

Can the treaty be improved? Of course. But the CWC has a provision for amendment after it comes into force. I would hope that the United States would be again at the head of efforts to make the treaty more effective after a period to test its utility. We have the technological means and economic weight to make it so. But only if we are a party to the treaty. And to become a party to the treaty, the U.S. Senate must perform its constitutionally mandated function of debate and ratification before April 29.

Mr. President, it is unfortunate that the Chemical Weapons Convention is being held hostage to other, unrelated, matters. Time is of the essence, Mr. President, and time is running out.

In closing, this treaty should be fully and carefully debated by the U.S. Senate at the earliest possible date, not at the 11 hour when the clock is ticking on our ability to ensure that the United States is an active participant in future revisions to the CWC. The American people deserve no less. •

## "ANOTHER BAD ONE"

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the attached editorial from the Vermont newspaper *The Time Argus*, titled "Another Bad One," and dated March 19, 1997, be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

## ANOTHER BAD ONE

The arguments against amending the U.S. Constitution over campaign financing are the same as the arguments against a balanced budget amendment or a prohibition amendment. It is a waste of effort to target specific evils by way of the Constitution.

The U.S. Senate wisely rejected a campaign finance amendment by a wide margin on Tuesday.

States which have encumbered their constitutions with numerous amendments have found their documents have become just that: encumbrances.

A constitutional amendment will not stop candidates from getting money, and it will not stop people who want to influence candidates from using their money to promote that influence. You might as well have an amendment that said: "Candidates for public office shall not spend money in their quest for the office."

Then there would be a court case to argue whether a candidate who filled his automobile gas tank while on the way to a campaign forum had "spent money in his quest" for the office.

A constitutional amendment against bank robbery would not stop the number of bank robberies that occur. There is a law against bank robbery, and in fact Congress finally got the federal government into the investigations by making it possible for the FBI to enter bank robbery cases immediately.

And something similar relating to campaign financing would be the proper course

of action, instead of an amendment to the Constitution. A congressional statute putting greater controls over campaigns would have the same effect as an amendment without the permanent encumbrance of the amendment on matters unforeseen.

In some cases the courts have ruled that specific laws limiting contribution limits infringe on free speech. It ought to be possible for a congressional statute to impose some sort of constraint on money without interfering with speech.

The huge sums spent on campaigns may very well be considered immoral, but history has given ample illustrations of the futility of trying to legislate morality. Prohibition is a relatively recent example. Did it stop people from consuming alcohol? No. In fact, it helped increase the power of law-breaking organizations geared to providing illicit substances, a baneful influence that is still with us.

The present spotlight in Washington on campaign contributions and the methods of solicitation for such funds makes it easy for people to think an amendment to the Constitution would be an appropriate response. But however tawdry such actions have been—and they certainly are tawdry—there will be no change merely by passing an amendment that says, in effect: "Thou shalt not be tawdry. Thou shalt not be greedy."

The existing amendments to the U.S. Constitution that come closest to addressing a specific subject are the 13th and 14th, which after the Civil War abolished slavery and codified equal protection under the law. But even they were not so specific that they can't be applied to races other than African-Americans, and questions of equal protection arise even today.

Efforts for a balanced budget amendment are an abdication of congressional responsibility. Efforts for an amendment on campaign financing constitute a similar abdication. •

## EXPRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I want to express my concern with the President's proposal for the budget of the Federal Aviation Administration. We all know how important aviation is to our economy, contributing more than \$770 billion in direct and indirect benefits. In South Carolina, travel and tourism is the No. 2 industry, accounting for almost 100,000 jobs. The industry is fueled by the aviation industry.

The President has talked a lot about a bridge to the 21st century. Bridges and highway projects are critical parts of our Nation's infrastructure. But so are airports. I have an airport in almost every county of my State. We have a strong airport system, but one that needs money to rebuild and expand. The \$1 billion proposal falls far short of what is needed. It is a short-sighted approach to meeting our country's needs. It also undoes a deal that we had last year with the administration. I am certain that the new Secretary wants to make sure that our Nation's infrastructure needs are addressed, and I want to work with him on ways to meet those needs.

The President has proposed a \$1 billion airport improvement program. The airport community claims that nationwide it needs almost \$10 billion per