

communicate with Congress about wrongdoing. And the executive branch should not be allowed to shoot the messenger with impunity. I am simply trying to get the two parties to return to the negotiating table, where they had been up to as recently as two months ago, and arrive at a mutually agreed-upon new job for Ms. Shenwick.

Accordingly, I have placed a hold on three new nominees from the State Department. They are the following: A. Peter Burleigh as Ambassador to the Philippines; Carl Spielvogel as Ambassador to the Slovak Republic; and, J. Richard Fredericks as Ambassador to Switzerland.

In addition to these new holds, I have taken additional steps which I choose not to disclose at this time. They are designed to increase my and other interested colleagues' ability to insist that Ms. Shenwick be treated fairly. Several of my colleagues have indicated a desire to assist me on my further endeavors.

My interest, as I said, was not with Mr. Holbrooke. I intend to vote for him. My interest is, and has been from the beginning, in making sure the process for Ms. Shenwick remains fair. It became evident to me that the Secretary of State was not out of sorts with the hold-up of the Holbrooke nomination. Yet the hold accomplished some progress.

In the first place, the Department had long ignored a letter signed by nine United States Senators in October of last year, raising our concerns about its mistreatment of Ms. Shenwick. The Department did not even respond until June 30 of this year—eight months later. Since then, we have corresponded again, and I met with State Department attorneys through the good offices of my friend from Virginia, Senator Warner.

I also met with Administration officials and have engaged in useful dialogue. It has resulted in a more highly sensitized Administration as to the need for effective communications with the State Department to ensure fair treatment for Ms. Shenwick. These communications have produced one small yet positive step toward ensuring the fairest possible process.

In the meantime, I have chosen to increase my leverage by putting the holds on these three nominees. At the same time, I will release my hold on Mr. Holbrooke, satisfied that I have greater leverage, and the Administration's heightened awareness and assurances of a fair process.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have lost track of how long it has been since the President nominated Ambassador Richard Holbrooke to be the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

What I do know is that in the intervening months we have fought a war in

Kosovo that I supported, but which harmed our relations with Russia and China.

We have watched as tens of thousands of students demonstrated in the streets of Tehran; seen further signs that North Korea is preparing to test a long-range missile that could reach our shores; entered a new and hopeful period in the Middle East peace process; watched the Northern Ireland peace process reach a dead end once again; and seen India and Pakistan, armed with nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them, clash over Kashmir. All of this has occurred while Ambassador Holbrooke has been waiting to be confirmed.

So, Mr. President, it is possible for the United States to carry on without a UN ambassador. We have managed to do that. The world has not come to an end, although not a day has passed without a crisis that we have an interest in. But does anyone here think it is a sensible way for the world's only superpower to conduct itself?

Every day, we face threats to our security interests, our economic interest, that affect the health and welfare of the American people, and which require the intensive attention and intervention of skilled diplomats. Aside from the Secretary of State, there is no diplomatic position more important than our UN Ambassador.

Yet month after month after month, we have seen this nomination delayed by the Majority party. First it was due to allegations of financial irregularities, which Ambassador Holbrooke resolved months ago. Months had already been lost waiting for a hearing.

Then, shortly after the Majority Leader said the Senate would vote on his nomination, a hold was placed on it and more weeks have passed without a vote being scheduled—a vote that is certain to confirm Ambassador Holbrooke overwhelmingly. In fact, he would have been confirmed easily months ago, if the Senate had been permitted to vote.

This is the last week before the August recess. There is absolutely no justification whatsoever for delaying this further. There are no political points to be made here. On the contrary, we hurt ourselves each day that we are without a UN Ambassador. It is, frankly, ridiculous to be acting as if this position can remain vacant for month after month, without weakening our influence around the world.

So let us hope this is the week that Ambassador Holbrooke will be confirmed, and that he can get started on the difficult job that we, the American people and the President, need him to do.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, August 3, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,613,220,970,175.47 (Five trillion, six hundred thirteen billion, two hundred

twenty million, nine hundred seventy thousand, one hundred seventy-five dollars and forty-seven cents).

One year ago, August 3, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,505,964,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred five billion, nine hundred sixty-four million).

Five years ago, August 3, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,640,190,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred forty billion, one hundred ninety million).

Ten years ago, August 3, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,811,435,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred eleven billion, four hundred thirty-five million).

Fifteen years ago, August 3, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,557,032,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred fifty-seven billion, thirty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,056,188,970,175.47 (Four trillion, fifty-six billion, one hundred eighty-eight million, nine hundred seventy thousand, one hundred seventy-five dollars and forty-seven cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Berry, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2606. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

At 3:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Berry, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 987. An act to require the Secretary of Labor to wait for completion of a National Academy of Sciences study before promulgating a standard or guideline on ergonomics.

H.R. 2031. An act to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor.

H.R. 1907. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide enhanced protection for inventors and innovators, protect patent terms, reduce patent litigation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: