

many years. Mr. Olson told the Senate that he was paid from \$500 to \$1,000 for his articles that appeared in the American Spectator magazine, whereas his firm received \$94,405 for legal services.

The attempt to create a conflict on this issue requires mixing apples with oranges. There were two different types of payments, for different types of services. In his April 19 answers, Mr. Olson explained that in addition to the \$500 to \$1,000 fees he received for the articles, his law firm "has received payments for legal services rendered to the [American Spectator] Foundation from time to time, by me and by others at the firm, at our normal market rates." Given that those legal fees were for legal services provided to the magazine over a period of more than 5 years, involving the work of several attorneys, the \$94,405 figure is in no way surprising. More significantly, Mr. Olson at all times distinguished between the firm's legal fees, and the separate, comparatively modest amounts he received personally for writing articles for the magazine. It is, again, a factual mistake to suggest that he ever sought to confuse those two amounts.

Fourth, some have criticized Mr. Olson for allegedly refusing to respond to an allegation about American Spectator dinner parties. I question whether the Senate should even get into this issue of who attended what dinner parties, given the absence of any serious issue here, and the freedom of speech and press values inherent in a magazine's activities. But this particular allegation was dubious and made by a source who publicly contradicted himself on this very allegation. The allegation appeared only in the pages of the Washington Post. No Senator asked Mr. Olson about that particular allegation, and we have never imposed on nominees of either party an obligation to track down and respond to every far-fetched or baseless charge that might find its way into print. Moreover, one member of the committee did make an inquiry about Mr. Olson's social contacts with employees of the American Spectator and Mr. Olson fully answered that question in writing. So it is factually incorrect to state that he refused to respond to that question.

Fifth, Mr. Olson's statement that his legal services for the American Spectator magazine were not for the purpose of conducting investigations of the Clintons is allegedly contradicted by the fact that Mr. Olson's firm was compensated for legal research to prepare a chart outlining the Clintons' criminal exposure, as research for a February 1994 article Mr. Olson co-authored entitled, 'Criminal Laws Implicated by the Clinton Scandals: A Partial List.' This charge again is contradicted by record facts. The 1994 engagement letter for Mr. Olson's professional services expressly provided that Mr. Olson and his firm were not engaged "to do any independent factual research." In fact, there is nothing in the public record to suggest that Mr.

Olson's work in connection with that article, or for the magazine at any time, involved factual investigation of the Clintons. Comparing the publicly-available applicable Federal criminal code provisions, to publicly-available newspaper stories concerning allegations regarding the Clintons, cannot be described as an "investigation" of the Clintons.

While there were other factual inaccuracies in the attacks on Mr. Olson, this list demonstrates that the concerns raised regarding Mr. Olson's candor before the Judiciary Committee were unjustified.

It is particularly noteworthy that Robert Bennett, one of the most notable lawyers in this country and counsel to then-President Clinton, rejected the claim that Mr. Olson was less than candid in his responses to the Senate Judiciary Committee. More than almost any other person, he knows that facts of the Clinton matters. During an interview with Wolf Blitzer on CNN on May 22, Mr. Bennett stated: "I have recently read [Mr. Olson's] responses to the Senate, and I have looked at a lot of the material, and if I were voting, I would say that Ted Olson was more than candid with the Senate." Mr. Bennett is independent; he had no partisan axe to grind in favor of Mr. Olson in connection with this nomination; he, in fact, was a lead counsel for President Clinton for several years; he was not maneuvering for advantage in future nomination battles; he is a lawyer experienced in weighing evidence and cross-examining witnesses; he looked at the evidence; and his conclusion that these allegations are ill-founded is worthy of our respect.

I agree wholeheartedly with Mr. Bennett. I too have reviewed Mr. Olson's statements before the committee regarding his role in the "Arkansas Project," and I find Mr. Olson's statements to be clear and accurate.

The Washington Post editorial board also shares this view. On May 18, after all of the questions regarding the "Arkansas Project" had been raised, the Washington Post endorsed Mr. Olson's nomination to be Solicitor General, noting "Mr. Olson is one of Washington's most talented and successful appellate lawyers, a man who served with distinction in the Justice Department during the 1980s and whose work is widely admired across party lines." According to the Washington Post, "Mr. Olson's prior service at the Justice Department indicates that he understands the difference between the roles of private citizen and public servant." As for Mr. Olson's testimony regarding his role in the "Arkansas Project," the Washington Post concluded that "there's no evidence that his testimony was inaccurate in any significant way," and that "the Democrats would be wrong to block Mr. Olson." [Emphasis added.]

The Senate thus far has not done a good job of reviewing President Bush's nominees, and in many cases has made

upstanding individuals the victims of partisan attacks. The deeply partisan vote over the Solicitor Generalship was a low point. I strongly believe that every nominee deserves fairness in this process and a full chance to get his or her position into the record and considered. It is not right to leave the record incomplete. I hope that, by setting the record straight, the Senate can move on and treat future nominees more fairly.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, July 6, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,710,979,327,576.62, five trillion, seven hundred ten billion, nine hundred seventy-nine million, three hundred twenty-seven thousand, five hundred seventy-six dollars and sixty-two cents.

One year ago, July 6, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,665,885,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-five billion, eight hundred eighty-five million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 6, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$613,075,000,000, six hundred thirteen billion, seventy-five million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,097,904,327,576.62, five trillion, ninety-seven billion, nine hundred four million, three hundred twenty-seven thousand, five hundred seventy-six dollars and sixty-two cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND HURLEY J. COLEMAN SR.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I acknowledge the life and accomplishments of a distinguished and principled public servant who served as a minister in my home State of Michigan, Reverend Hurley J. Coleman Sr. Today, people will be gathering in Saginaw, MI, to pay tribute to and celebrate the life of a man who for nearly five decades, served as a leader, spiritual mentor and role model in his community.

Throughout his life, Reverend Coleman dedicated himself to serving his family, his church and his God. The esteem in which he was held by all who knew him is due to the fact that Pastor Coleman's life was a powerful testimony to the message he preached weekly at Coleman Temple Church of God in Christ.

Considered one of the deans of the Saginaw clergy, Pastor Coleman's career had a humble beginning. Licensed as a minister in the Church of God in Christ in 1953, Pastor Coleman's first congregation gathered for worship in his home. A short four years after the inception of this congregation, they broke ground for a new church. This facility now serves over 300 members—an amazing number considering that the Pastor's first congregation included only six members.