

Mr. SPECTER. If I may respond, that is consistent with what I was told. I did not want to use the expression "hold" because of the pejorative connotation in this Chamber. I made the same point by saying that there were obstacles to getting the funds released. But I think it is a matter of enormous importance. I am glad to hear the bipartisan group of women were meeting yesterday to exercise their leadership. This business about crimes against humanity and rape is just horrendous. We have to act, and act promptly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Under the previous order, the Senator from West Virginia is now recognized for 15 minutes.

**THE STEEL IMPORT CRISIS:
ANOTHER 1,800 U.S. JOBS AT RISK**

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

For months now, I and many of my colleagues, including the very distinguished senior Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. SPECTER, have been alerting this Congress to the devastating nature of the steel import crisis that has plagued this Nation since the end of 1997.

A year and a half later, in yesterday's Wheeling Intelligencer headlines, we see the statement: "Sixth Steelmaker Claims Bankruptcy." Let me repeat that headline from the Wheeling, WV, newspaper: a sixth U.S. steel mill has declared bankruptcy.

With that announcement, U.S. steelworkers in West Virginia, and elsewhere, are wondering when the Clinton administration and this Congress will realize that enough is enough. I have no doubt that the 1,800 people who are employed at Gulf States Steel, Inc., in Gadsden, AL—the sixth U.S. steel mill to declare bankruptcy since the steel import crisis began—are also wondering why no one is acting on a long-term basis to prevent the illegal steel dumping that has jeopardized their jobs.

I say enough is enough. Six companies declare bankruptcy, more than 6,200 jobs are jeopardized, and this Administration and this Congress still fail to act:

- 1,800 jobs in Gadsden, Alabama;
- 200 jobs in Alton, Illinois;
- 140 jobs in Holsapple, Pennsylvania;
- 2,400 jobs in Vineyard, Utah; and
- 540 jobs in Washington, Pennsylvania, and Massillon, Ohio.

For those who believe that the steel industry is not in difficulty, tell it to these families. Tell it to those workers who have lost their jobs. These men and women and their families are the human faces of the steel crisis. They are not just numbers. They are not just statistics. These are real faces. These are real men and women. These are real children of the steel crisis.

While we do nothing, the list of the victims of the steel import crisis grows ever longer. I hear from U.S. steelworkers. They want to know how many more bankruptcies it will take to make the President of the United States and the Congress understand that immediate action must be taken against the tide of cheap and illegal steel imports into this country. How many more U.S. jobs must be lost before we tell our trading partners that enough is enough?

We already know that there will be no quota bill passed by this Congress. The House passed a quota bill. The Senate has not passed a quota bill and will not pass a quota bill. Penalties are not likely against Brazil and Russia, even though the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission found them to be guilty of dumping steel illegally on American shores. Instead of finding a long-term, global solution, this administration chooses to promote piecemeal solutions and negotiate suspension agreements with those two countries. Changes in U.S. trade laws to strengthen enforcement seem even more unlikely.

According to the Wheeling, WV, Intelligencer, the U.S. steel industry is still holding on to the thin hope that the steel loan guarantee program, which the Senate has already approved twice, will quickly, hopefully, be approved in the House of Representatives. While this is only a short-term program to help U.S. steel mills that have been hurt by the steel import crisis, I thank my colleagues for passing the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program, authored by me, and a similar program, the Emergency Oil and Gas Guaranteed Loan Program, authored by Senator DOMENICI.

On June 21, the Senate requested a conference with the House on H.R. 1664, which contains the steel loan guarantee and the oil and gas loan guarantee, and conferees have been appointed by the Senate. I am hopeful that this conference will take place soon, and we have every right to expect that that conference will take place soon.

There was a commitment entered into not too long ago, at the time the emergency supplemental appropriations bill was in conference between the two Houses. A commitment was entered into by the leadership of both the House and Senate to call up the bill in the Senate. That was done. The majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader kept their commitments. The bill was called up in the Senate, and the steel loan guarantee program and the oil and gas loan guarantee program were passed by the Senate for the second time and sent to the House. It is to be expected that a conference will take place, as the Senate has requested. Hopefully, that conference

will then meet and act, and act quickly, and hopefully, further, both Houses will quickly adopt a conference report and send it on to the President for his signature.

Illegal steel dumping has created exigent circumstances for the U.S. steel industry, and the loan guarantees will provide help to companies, small and middle-sized steel companies that employ thousands of hard-working Americans. These loan guarantees would work through the private market, help to sustain good-paying jobs, support our national security, and save taxpayers millions of dollars from lost tax revenues and increased public assistance payments for things such as unemployment compensation, food stamps, and worker retraining.

The fate of the loan programs rests today in the hands of the U.S. House of Representatives. With great respect, I urge the House to act quickly. On behalf of U.S. steel mills and U.S. steelworkers, for those 1,800 steelworkers at great risk with Gulf States Steel in Alabama, for the thousands of other steelworkers and their families across the country who cry out for help, I urge the other body to take action and to support the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Program.

Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 5 minutes 28 seconds remaining.

Mr. BYRD. Does the distinguished Senator from Alabama wish time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could interrupt my friend from West Virginia, the Senator from Maine has requested 5 minutes and there isn't time left for that unless he would yield to the Senator. Otherwise, she would—

Mr. BYRD. I would be very happy to yield to the Senator. First, I would like to inquire of the distinguished Senator from Alabama if he wishes some of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Senator from West Virginia. I do not. I expect to follow the Senator from New Hampshire. I do not seek the floor now.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

Mr. SESSIONS. I do appreciate the leadership of the Senator from West Virginia on the steel question. It is important; a company in critical condition, with 1,800 employees in Alabama and a 30-year record of business success, which has, in just the last week, gone into bankruptcy.

And I do believe the loan guarantee could help save that historic company. I thank the Senator for his leadership.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the distinguished Senator. With my remaining time, I am very glad to yield to the Senator from Maine, Ms. SNOWE, if she wishes to have my remaining minutes.

Ms. SNOWE. I thank the Senator from West Virginia. I appreciate that. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Four minutes 4 seconds.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that in addition to the 4 minutes she would be receiving from the Senator from West Virginia, the Senator from Maine receive 5 additional minutes in morning business.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I don't want to be obstreperous, but we have to get to the bill. That is why I urged the Senator from West Virginia to give his time to the Senator from Maine. I have no problem with that. But as far as extending time, it would have to come off the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is objection. Does the Senator from Maine desire to have the remaining time?

Ms. SNOWE. Yes, I do. I thank the Senator from West Virginia for yielding.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, my time is rapidly dwindling. I would like to know whether or not she wishes my remaining time.

Ms. SNOWE. Yes.

Mr. BYRD. I ask unanimous consent that my remaining time may be allotted to the Senator from Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Maine is recognized.

CONGRATULATING THE U.S. WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 141, a resolution submitted earlier by Senator SNOWE, Senator REID, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 141) to congratulate the United States Women's Soccer Team on winning the 1999 Women's World Cup Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution along with Senators REID, MURRAY, MIKULSKI, COLLINS, LANDRIEU, FEINSTEIN, BOXER, HUTCHISON, and LINCOLN honoring the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team for their outstanding performance and dramatic victory in winning the 1999 Women's World Cup. This is a resolution that I've worked on with Senator Reid, who spoke eloquently earlier in the week on the World Cup victory, and I want to thank him for his strong support for the team and its accomplishments.

The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team has got to be the single greatest sports story this year, and certainly of this decade. Capturing the hearts and

the imagination of America with remarkable play and even higher levels of teamwork and good sportsmanship, the U.S. Women's Soccer Team has ushered in a new era in women's athletics.

We are not just talking about talented athletes here—we're talking about role models who are driven to play by the thrill of victory and the excitement of competition. And perhaps therein lies the true appeal of this team—in a time when money and commercialism often seem to overwhelm the true spirit of sport, along comes these extraordinary women who restore our faith in the virtues of athletic competition and truly give us something to cheer about.

Is it any wonder, then, that these women—as well as women from other nations who have come to the United States in search of World Cup glory—have been “packing them in” wherever they have played. Indeed, The Boston Globe reported that only the Pope has drawn more people to Giants Stadium in New Jersey, and all 65,080 seats at Soldier Field in Chicago were sold-out for the United States-Nigeria game—the largest crowd ever to see a soccer game at that venue.

For the final, over 90,000 fans were on hand to see the national team's dramatic victory over China—a record for an all-women sporting event. Not only has women's soccer arrived, it's taken the nation by storm.

From coast to coast, Americans tuned in to watch our team play world-class soccer—and they weren't disappointed. In fact, it's estimated that about 40 million viewers watched all or part of that nail-biting final match. That's nearly double the rating for the men's World Cup final last year between Brazil and Italy, and bests even the average national ratings for the recent NBA finals between the New York Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs.

Those of us who viewed the tournament were rewarded with victory after victory, as well as the joy of watching athletes who truly love to play. And if Saturday's real-life finale had instead been the ending to a Hollywood movie, it would have been panned for being utterly unbelievable. Who would have thought that after 120 minutes of regulation play, the score would still be tied at zero-zero, with penalty kicks the only thing standing between defeat and victory?

Throughout all that time—with the nation watching, waiting, hoping, and anticipating, with 90,000 chanting fans hanging on every kick, every header, every pass, and every breakaway—our team never gave up or gave in. Goalkeeper Briana Scurry was nothing short of remarkable, robbing the Chinese team of a critical penalty kick. And at the end, when Brandi Chastain's shot came to rest at the back of the opposing team's net, it all paid off in one

of those incredible sporting moments that will go down not only in the history of sports, but in the history of women's struggles for recognition and equality.

There is no question, Mr. President, that sports are just as important an activity for girls and women as they are for boys and men. Through sports, girls and women can experience a positive competitive spirit applicable to any aspect of life.

They can truly learn how to “take the ball and run with it”, not only on the playing fields, but in classrooms, boardrooms, and, yes, even the Committee rooms of Congress. Through athletics, girls and women can achieve a healthy body and a healthy mind. They gain the self-esteem to say “give me the ball” with the clock running out and the game on the line.

You know, when I was growing up, girls and women did not have much opportunity to participate in competitive athletics. But the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed all that for good. Finally, with the passage of this landmark legislation, women would be afforded equitable opportunities to participate in high school and college athletics.

And the results are indisputable. Since Title IX's enactment, women and girls across the nation have met the challenge of participating in competitive sports in record numbers. In the past 28 years, the number of college women participating in competitive athletics has gone from fewer than 32,000 to over 128,000 in 1997. Before Title IX, fewer than 300,000 high school girls played competitive sports. As of 2 years ago, that number had climbed to almost 2.6 million.

The U.S. Women's Soccer Team has not only underscored the achievements of Title IX, but has encouraged even more young women to get into the arena and onto the playing fields. You know, it used to be said that girls were made of “sugar and spice and everything nice.” Well, the U.S. Women's Soccer Team proved that there is room for being both “nice” and determined. There is room for being both a woman and a competitor.

Indeed, it astounds me when I think of how far we have come since I introduced the original joint resolution of Congress establishing the very first National Girls and Women in Sports Day back in 1986. Where dreams of athletic glory were once almost the exclusive domain of boys, today—thanks in large part to out Women's National Soccer Team—girls now have aspirations of their own.

Watching this team has inspired a whole generation of girls to believe that they can go as high and as far as their talent—and their drive—will take them. Indeed, I have no doubt that girls across America will be running around the soccer fields this summer