

be strongly influenced by the growing Chinese capability on Russia's eastern border, and India continues to develop more advanced nuclear weapons partly in response to China's program.

I will say very little about the allegations against a specific scientist at Los Alamos. However, given what we know about China's intelligence program, it is not unreasonable to assume that scientists at all three weapons labs have knowingly or unknowingly been approached to provide classified information to China or its intermediaries. The laboratories are cognizant of that threat. Frankly, I don't know if the steps the laboratories, working with the Department of Energy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are taking are sufficient to prevent espionage at our laboratories.

I have met with Director Freeh I, and he assures me that the FBI is doing all it can in this regard. I am certain that, no matter what steps we take, the Chinese and others will continue their efforts.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, March 23, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,645,199,129,224.03 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-five billion, one hundred ninety-nine million, one hundred twenty-nine thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars and three cents).

One year ago, March 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,539,833,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty-nine billion, eight hundred thirty-three million).

Five years ago, March 23, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,559,372,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred fifty-nine billion, three hundred seventy-two million).

Ten years ago, March 23, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,737,055,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred thirty-seven billion, fifty-five million).

Fifteen years ago, March 23, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,465,084,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred sixty-five billion, eighty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,180,115,129,224.03 (Four trillion, one hundred eighty billion, one hundred fifteen million, one hundred twenty-nine thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars and three cents) during the past 15 years.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I regret that because of my father's funeral in Mississippi yesterday, I was not present in the Senate to vote on S. Con. Res. 21, authorizing the President of the United States to conduct military air operations and missile strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugo-

slavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the resolution.

The authorization is carefully limited and is designed to permit the participation of military forces of the United States, in concert with NATO allies, in an action to respond to a clear threat to the security and stability of Europe and indirectly to our own security interests.

It is my hope that this action will serve to signal the willingness of the United States government to keep its commitments under the NATO treaty and to be a force for peace and freedom in the region sought to be protected by the alliance.

FRANCESCO (GHEIB) GHEBRESILLASSIE RETIRES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Francesco Ghebresillassie plans to retire after 32 years of service to the Senate. That is quite a record, and it deserves notices from those of us who depend so heavily upon—and are never disappointed by—Gheib and the men and women who work with him.

Since 1987, he has been Manager of the Production Services Branch of Central Operations under the Sergeant at Arms. In that role, he has supervised all the activities of the Micrographics and Production Services sections. He came to that post step by step, working his way from machine operator to computer operator to shift supervisor. By 1975, he was responsible for two work shifts and for the operations in two buildings.

Thereafter, as Hardware Manager, he was responsible for keeping the Senate current with technological changes in the computer arena, refining our procedures, and working with vendors. Later on, as User Support Manager and Production Services Manager, he emphasized quality service to the staff who sit at the thousands of computers within our Senate offices. He has been responsible for interaction with them, and has improved the tech support they have needed to deal with the rapid pace of change in the cyber world. Gheib has also supervised the staff who maintain our microfilm documents for posterity.

Needless to say, today's Senate is quite a different institution from the one to which Gheib came in 1967. One of the ways it has changed for the better has been the technological modernization of which Gheib has been a part. Because of his labors, and the diligence of those who have worked with him over the years, we have been able to better serve the folks back home in ways that were not possible three decades ago.

As we congratulate Gheib on his retirement, I want to also acknowledge his wife, Theresa, who works for our colleague from Wisconsin, Senator

KOHL. We wish for them and for their daughters, Lisa and Ayesha, all the good things the future can bring.

CONNIE SULLIVAN RETIRES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Connie Sullivan, who has served as Reprographic Manager in the Service Department since 1989, plans to retire in June. This will be a significant loss for the Senate. For the past decade, she has been responsible for all phases of the Reprographics Division—more recently known as Printing, Graphics, and Direct Mail—within the Sergeant at Arms office.

Connie has been with the Senate for 24 years. She came here in February, 1975 from the House of Representatives as a Composer Technician in the newly created "Composing Room," which was part of the Printing Section of our Department. You can imagine the technological changes Connie has seen since then, when she was asked to assume the duties of Composer with oversight for all the typesetting and layout functions of the Composing Room.

In the restructuring of the Service Department in 1984, when the Composing Room became the Pre-Press Section, Connie was promoted to supervisor. In a subsequent reorganization in 1986, she was again promoted to Operations Branch Head. That was a well-deserved recognition of her long experience with the growth and integration of services and, especially, the development of the Pre-Press section from conventional typesetting and layout to desk-top publishing and a full-color graphics operations.

In that regard, Connie has been one of the people who have helped the Senate enter fully into the information age. We are able to keep in closer touch with our constituents, and they with us, and that has a positive impact on just about everything we do here.

So on behalf of the Senate, I want to thank Connie for all her years of service and wish her many happy years of time with her family, her garden, and the enduring satisfaction of a job well done.

RUSSELL JACKSON RETIRES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there are today only four Senators who were here in 1965 when Russell Jackson first came to the Senate to work as an elevator operator. He has observed this institution, both its changes and its continuity, for a long, long time. Now, as he retires as Senior Manager of Central Operations, I want to thank him, on behalf of the entire Senate, for a lifetime of service.

Early on, Russell interrupted his work here for a different kind of service, in the U.S. Army, but he returned to the Senate to work with the Office of the Superintendent. Within that Office, he worked his way up the ladder

by doing it all: evening shift, day shift, staff assistant, supervisor, office manager, and senior service officer.

Within the confines of the Senate family, we all know how important is the coordination of office moves, the maintenance of our furniture inventory, and all the other operations of the Superintendent's Office. Russell had a hand in it all, and also served as liaison between the Superintendent and our Senate offices.

Since 1987, Russell has been Director of the Service Department, a division that is little known to the outside world but so essential to all of us in the Senate. His leadership there brought technological changes to meet the Senate's increasing demands for charts, graphs, exhibits, and the enormous amount of daily work that keeps our offices in contact with constituents and the media. At the same time, he updated personnel practices to boost both productivity and morale, and to open advancement opportunities through an evaluation process and cross training for staff.

The Senate, and the constituents whom we are here to serve, owe him a debt of gratitude. And I know my colleagues join me in wishing him a wonderful retirement.

KOSOVO

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, at this moment, U.S. forces under NATO command are conducting air strikes against Serbia. And they have my full support and endorsement as they go into battle. We all hope that bombing Serbia ends the cycle of violence between the Serbs and ethnic Albanians in that region.

Yesterday, I voted against authorizing the use of force because the President refused to explain to Congress and the American people how his goals would be achieved by bombing, and what our plan would be after the bombing stops—if Milosevic refuses to yield. I still do not see how bombing Serbia will bring about peace or end the atrocities being committed. I do not see how bombing Serbia will lead to the Administration's goals of greater political autonomy to Kosovo, the withdrawal of most Serbian military forces, protection of minorities, and a more equitable ethnic representation among local police. That being said, I fully support our troops and I'm confident they will carry out their mission successfully.

We should all support our troops and hope that we have not started down a slippery slope where the President insists that in order to protect our credibility or NATO's credibility we have to send in U.S. ground troops. The U.S. officially recognizes that Kosovo is part of Serbia, which along with Montenegro, forms the sovereign state of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. And

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic has made it clear that Serbia does not want foreign troops on its soil. President Clinton, however, is bombing Serbia in order to force Serbia to agree to a peace accord which U.S. troops would be put on the ground to enforce—as an occupation force, not a peacekeeping force.

There is an ongoing civil war between the Serbs and the ethnic Albanians and the combatants have not exhausted their will to fight. So when the President talks about sending 4,000 American military men and women to Kosovo, he is talking about making peace not keeping peace. The Kosovo Liberation Army is fighting for independence; the Serbs are fighting for complete control by Belgrade. While the Kosovars have accepted the U.S.-supported plan, neither side enthusiastically embraces the U.S.-supported plan of limited autonomy. This is a recipe for disaster.

The President's decision to use NATO to attack Serbia fundamentally changes the nature of NATO. NATO has never attacked a country that has not threatened its neighbors or a member of the alliance. I do not think we should fundamentally change the nature of one of the most successful military alliances in history without a debate.

Mr. President, I support our troops. And the best way that I can support them at this time is to declare that I will do everything in my power to make sure that U.S. troops are not put on the ground in Kosovo.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DOROTHY C. STRATTON

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments and distinguished service of Captain Dorothy C. Stratton, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve (Ret), on this her 100th birthday. She has served her country with honor as an educator, naval officer and public official.

Born in Brookfield, Missouri, Captain Stratton earned a Bachelor of Arts from Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas; a Master of Arts in Psychology from the University of Chicago; and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Student Personnel Administration from Columbia University. Captain Stratton joined Purdue University as the Dean of Women and Associate Professor of Psychology in 1933, becoming a full professor in 1940.

In June, 1942, with our nation embroiled in war, Professor Stratton left Purdue to join the Women Appointed Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). She was assigned as the Assistant to the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Naval Training Station in Madison, Wisconsin. Due to the military's pressing need for personnel, Congress authorized the Women's Reserve

of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Act creating the Women's Reserve was signed into law by President Roosevelt on November 23, 1942, and within hours, Stratton became the first director of the new organization. She was the first female officer accepted for service in the history of the U.S. Coast Guard. She rose from Lieutenant Commander to the rank of Commander on January 1, 1944 and to the rank of Captain one month later.

One of Captain Stratton's first acts as Director of the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve was to coin the famous name that would distinguish them from the Navy WAVES and the Army WACS. In a memo to the Commandant ADM Russell R. Waesche, Stratton explained: "The motto of the Coast Guard is 'Semper Paratus—Always Ready.' The initials of this motto are of course, SPAR. Why not call the members of the Women's Reserve SPARS? . . . As I understand it, a spar is often a supporting beam and that is what we hope each member of the Women's Reserve will be." Admiral Waesche agreed, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Captain Stratton led over 10,000 volunteers who responded to their nation's call for help between 1942 and 1946. She completed her service as Director of the SPARS in January, 1946 and was awarded the Legion of Merit. She then served as Director of Personnel for the International Monetary Fund from 1946 to 1950, and as the National Executive Director of the Girl Scouts of America from 1950 to 1960.

Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Captain Dorothy Stratton and to thank her for all she has done for this great country of ours. She is a shining example to us all, and it is truly a pleasure to wish her a happy birthday today.

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 1:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: