

decades in Japan. With Prime Minister Obuchi making his first official state visit to the United States, I thought it useful to review our economic relationship, or lack thereof.

As my colleagues know, the Japanese economy has been in a recession for quite some time. Unfortunately, it would appear the country has sought to export its way out of the problem and to continue to shield inefficient domestic companies from international competition. For instance, just last week the Commerce Department determined that Japanese steel imports were being dumped by margins of up to nearly 70%. Such actions are not acceptable. As the office of USTR recently said,

[A]s its demand for imports declines and its firms redouble their efforts to sell to healthier markets abroad, the effects of Japan's economic policies will continue to hit the United States. In 1998, the U.S. goods trade deficit with Japan reached \$64.1 billion, an increase of \$8.4 billion (14.2 percent) from the 1997 level. . . . U.S. merchandise exports to Japan fell to \$57.9 billion, a decrease of 11.9 percent from the 1997 level. . . . Japan is more dependent on the U.S. market to absorb its exports than it has been for many years. In 1998, the United States bought about 31 percent of Japan's exports, the highest level since 1990, and close to the all-time high of 36 percent in 1986.

It will come as little surprise to Senators who are concerned about our steel industry and other sectors that Japan accounted for approximately one-fourth of our entire trade deficit in 1998. It is a mistake to suppose that such huge amounts of money can continue indefinitely to move one way across the exchange with reciprocal movement in the other direction blocked. In view of this situation, the USTR said in its report: "The United States attaches top priority to opening Japan's markets to U.S. goods and services." I trust the President will share our government's concerns in his meeting with Prime Minister Obuchi, and will urge him to take steps to increase U.S. access to the Japanese market.

I also believe Japan can, and should, take additional steps to increase its defense sharing burden. Let me give one example. In the early 1990s, Congress and the Department of Defense recognized that more needed to be done to augment our strategic sealift capacity. Our experience in Desert Storm demonstrated a critical shortage of U.S.-flagged, U.S.-manned roll-on roll-off strategic sealift vessels. We therefore undertook new construction of a fleet of military ships of this type. Even with this new construction, however, there will continue to be a deficiency of lifting capacity.

To meet this deficiency, under the leadership of then-Senator Bill Cohen, Congress created the National Defense Features program. Under the program, U.S. companies have been invited to build vessels equipped with special

military features for operation in normal commercial service but available in times of national emergency.

Under one proposal, a fleet of refrigerated car carriers would be built in the United States for operation in the U.S.-Japan trade. In normal commercial service, the vessels would carry vehicles to the United States and refrigerated products to Japan. In times of national emergency, the vessels would carry tanks, heavy trucks, and other military equipment, as well as substantial amounts of live ammunition.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding support from the Congress and the Secretary of Defense, the project has met with no interest or actual resistance in Japan. This is particularly disturbing because implementation of the project would, at no economic cost to the Government of Japan, enhance the mutual security of our two nations. Especially at a time when the Government of Japan wishes to play a greater role in advancing shared defense objectives, I am disappointed that it has not given more serious attention to this proposal.

I hope the Administration will continue to press the Government of Japan to take steps to reduce our trade deficit and enhance our mutual security. I also hope the Government of Japan will use the occasion of the Prime Minister's state visit to make further commitments to doing so.●

COMMEMORATING BRANDON BURLSWORTH

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, it is not often that I rise to speak about specific individuals, but the individual I want to talk about today was a man of extraordinary character, Brandon Burlsworth.

Last Wednesday, I was saddened to learn about the tragic and untimely death of Brandon Burlsworth. Brandon was only 22 years old when a car accident ended his life. While his time on this earth was short, his impact on our world will be long lasting. Brandon was a hero to the community of Harrison, the Razorback family, and the entire state of Arkansas.

Brandon lived the kind of life that would make any parent proud. He led a wholesome life, and was a devout Christian who used his faith and strong work ethic to become a success in every facet of life.

Brandon was not a highly recruited athlete coming out of Harrison High School. Several small colleges expressed interest in him, but Brandon had his sights on walking on at Fayetteville and becoming a Razorback. While the odds were long, Brandon worked hard and not only made the team, but went on to start for the Razorbacks for three years. Last year, he earned All-American honors, while leading Arkansas to the SEC West Co-

Championship and a berth in the Citrus Bowl. Last month, the Indianapolis Colts selected Brandon in the third round of the National Football League draft.

Not only was Brandon a disciplined player on the field, he was an outstanding student in the classroom as well. Brandon earned a bachelor's degree in marketing management and a master's in business administration, all in 4½ years. In addition, he was a three time member of the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

Today, newspapers and newscasts are often filled with stories about athletes and their brushes with the law. Brandon became a symbol of how student athletes should conduct themselves. The manner in which he conducted himself on and off the field will be Brandon's legacy. He was a young man of great character and dedication. While I recognize that words alone provide little comfort in times such as these, I hope that Brandon's family knows how many lives this young man has touched.●

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1999

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 5. I further ask that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate then proceed to vote on the adoption of S. Res. 94, which is at the desk.

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

Mr. GRAMM. I now ask unanimous consent that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays on S. Res. 94.

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

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I now ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. GRAMM. I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the vote, there be a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the time equally divided. I further ask that the first half of the time be allocated to Senator COVERDELL and the second half of the time be allocated to Senator DORGAN or his designee.

I also ask consent that at 11 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 900, the financial modernization bill, and the pending Sarbanes amendment.

I finally ask that the time until 12 noon be equally divided between Senator GRAMM and Senator SARBANES, and that Senator GRAMM be recognized

at 12 noon to make a motion to table the pending Sarbanes amendment to S. 900.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. GRAMM. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and will immediately proceed to a rollcall vote on adoption of S. Res. 94. Following the

vote, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. At 11 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of Senator SARBANES' substitute amendment to S. 900, the Financial Services Modernization Act, with a vote on the Gramm motion to table occurring at approximately 12 noon. Additional amendments are expected, and therefore Senators can expect votes throughout Wednesday's session of the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. GRAMM. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:08 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 5, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.