

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR NANCY KASSEBAUM

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to offer my best wishes to our colleague, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM. Although we will work together for one more year—and I am pleased about that—I want to take this time to express my gratitude to Senator KASSEBAUM for what she has meant to me, to the Labor and Human Resources Committee, and to the Foreign Relations Committee.

First, to me, Senator KASSEBAUM is a real class act. When I came to the U.S. Senate in 1986, Senator KASSEBAUM was the only other woman here. Together we served for 6 years as the only two women in this institution that represents the entire Nation. We were both elected to the U.S. Senate in our own right.

I have tremendous respect for Senator KASSEBAUM and her views on many issues. Senator KASSEBAUM thinks independently in her political and policy decisions. She understands the issues and is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in.

While we may not agree on every issue—no one around here does—we do agree on some pretty important ones. Senator KASSEBAUM favors the legal right to an abortion; she has voted for gun control measures; and she has supported many measures to improve American education. She has demonstrated great courage and conviction.

Second, I salute Senator KASSEBAUM for chairing the full Labor Committee. She is the only female chair of a U.S. Senate committee and she does the job well. I serve on the Labor Committee, and I know first-hand how effective Senator KASSEBAUM can be.

The Labor Committee controls some of the most comprehensive and controversial issues to come before this body. I am talking about welfare reform, health, education, job training and occupational safety—just to name a few. It is not easy. But Senator KASSEBAUM can really rally the troops—Democrat or Republican to make sure that work gets done.

When Senator KASSEBAUM brings a bill to the Senate floor, it is sure to pass. She has a thorough, prudent and reasoned approach to crafting legislation. She gives a great deal of thought to the issues, and she knows how to build consensus.

Together we have fought for the right of women to choice in reproductive health matters. We have fought to keep America healthy, and we have fought for education for this Nation's students.

Finally, as chair of the African Affairs Subcommittee, Senator KASSEBAUM fights for policy that represents our values and respect for human rights.

Senator KASSEBAUM fought apartheid in South Africa. She urged President Reagan to take action against the white-minority government. When he

did not, she courageously endorsed sanctions against South Africa.

I want to thank Senator KASSEBAUM for what she has meant to foreign policy and for her commitment to Africa, to the Nation, and to the people of this country.

Senator KASSEBAUM says "the time has come to pursue other challenges." I want to wish her the best in that pursuit, and I know that she will set new standards wherever she goes.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before discussing today's bad news about the Federal debt, how about "another go," as the British put it, with our quiz.

The question: How many millions of dollars in a trillion? While you are thinking about it, bear in mind that it was the U.S. Congress that ran up the enormous Federal debt that is now about \$12 billion shy of \$5 trillion.

To be exact, as of the close of business yesterday, November 27, the total Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,988,885,320,472.65. Another depressing figure means that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,937.89.

Mr. President, back to our quiz—how many million in a trillion? There are a million million in a trillion, which means that the Federal Government will shortly owe \$5 million million.

Now, who is in favor of balancing the Federal budget?

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LANDMINES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will just speak very briefly. I have spoken many, many times about the dangers of landmines, especially indiscriminate antipersonnel landmines. I was very proud when the Senate went on record by a two-thirds vote supporting my moratorium on our own use of landmines. That is something designed to give the United States the moral leadership in arguing with other nations around the world to eventually ban the use of indiscriminate antipersonnel landmines.

It was, in my 21 years here, one of those rare occasions when people across the ideological spectrum joined together on one major issue, in this case one of the biggest humanitarian issues possible, but also something that could affect defense policies of nations well into the next century.

Earlier today I spoke of the dangers of landmines in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent an article regarding the debate in

Congress on landmines, written by Bob Kemper of the Washington Bureau of the Chicago Tribune, dated yesterday, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Chicago Tribune, Nov. 27, 1995]
CONGRESS DEBATES LAND MINE BAN—110 MILLION MINES PLANTED IN 60 NATIONS SPARK OUTCRY

(By Bob Kemper)

They are trash, the debris of war, like burned-out tanks and bombed-out buildings. But long after peace treaties are signed and soldiers go home, land mines go on killing.

Bosnia may provide the latest example. There are an estimated 6 million anti-armor and anti-personnel mines there, only 1 million of which are mapped, according to the United Nations. UN peacekeepers already have suffered 100 casualties from mines in Bosnia.

Killing or maiming 70 people a day worldwide—26,000 each year—land mines are especially devastating to some of the world's poorest countries, according to the State Department and humanitarian groups. And with 110 million mines still buried in more than 60 countries, an international outcry has risen and is echoing in the halls of Congress.

Led by Rep. Lane Evans (D-Ill.), Congress is taking the extraordinary step of ordering the Pentagon to unilaterally disarm itself of anti-personnel mines, devices that in one form or another have been in the U.S. arsenal since the Civil War.

The House and Senate approved a provision in a foreign operations bill that would give the Pentagon three years to learn to fight without anti-personnel mines.

A one-year moratorium, which later could be extended, then would be placed on the use of anti-personnel mines by American forces, except along international borders or in clearly marked fields.

"The U.S. government ought to set a moral example, to lead the world to see the menace of land mines in a clear light," said Evans, who pushed the proposal in the House while Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) worked the Senate.

No one is blaming the U.S. military for what the State Department dubbed "the global land mine crisis." American forces routinely use "smart mines" that self-destruct or turn themselves off after a month or so in the ground. When they do use long-life mines in the field, such as the claymore, the mines are typically removed as the soldiers withdraw.

However, Evans and Leahy say that by disarming its military, America sets an example and can prod other countries to follow suit.

Evans and Leahy used a similar strategy three years ago when they pushed for a moratorium on the U.S. export of mines. Two dozen nations have since followed the U.S. lead in banning or restricting land mine exports. The most recent, France, went further this fall when it announced that it also would stop making mines and destroy those already stockpiled.

Though launched by liberal Democrats, the ban gained new authority on Capitol Hill when pro-defense Democrats, like Virginia Sen. Charles S. Robb, and 25 Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.), backed it.

"In Vietnam I had a number of my men killed or wounded by various types of mines or booby traps," said Robb, who had led a Marine platoon. "I have visited around the world, in combat areas, literally tens of