

I do intend to speak out and I intend to use whatever leverage I have as a Senator to continue to push on this question. If Senators have reasons for objecting to Mr. Hormel's nomination, let them come out here and speak. Let us have an honest debate. If, God forbid, there are objections to him based upon his sexual orientation, then I think the U.S. Senate needs to look at itself in the mirror, because I think we can do better than that.

I yield the floor and reserve the balance of our time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEMENT AND JESSIE STONE

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a special date in the lives of two of my friends, Clement and Jessie Stone, who celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this past weekend.

Mr. Stone is well known to people throughout the world as a successful executive, a generous philanthropist, and for his writings on topics related to business, management, and positive thinking. Millions of people have read his inspirational books, and his insightful advice on the above topics has changed countless lives for the better. Few people are as well known, well read, or well regarded, as Clement Stone and he can truly be proud of all that he has accomplished in his rich and long life.

Despite his considerable wealth, his many awards and recognitions, and his international fame, I am certain that the one thing Clement Stone values and treasures more than anything else in life is his marriage to his high school sweetheart, a union that has lasted three-quarters of one century. It is almost unheard of for two people to be married for 75-years, but Jessie and Clement have not only done so, but I am told that their affection and regard for one another has not waned one bit since they exchanged vows on June 16, 1923. Without question, they are an inspiration to one and all.

As Clement and Jessie mark this auspicious milestone in their lives and their marriage, they will be doing so with friends and family, including a large number of grandchildren and

great grandchildren. I join all of them in wishing the Stones a happy anniversary and many more years of health and happiness.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 22, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,496,659,912,687.35 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-six billion, six hundred fifty-nine million, nine hundred twelve thousand, six hundred eighty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents).

Five years ago, June 22, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,299,889,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred ninety-nine billion, eight hundred eighty-nine million).

Ten years ago, June 22, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,526,369,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred twenty-six billion, three hundred sixty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, June 22, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,303,008,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred three billion, eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 22, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$453,584,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-three billion, five hundred eighty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,043,075,912,687.35 (Five trillion, forty-three billion, seventy-five million, nine hundred twelve thousand, six hundred eighty-seven dollars and thirty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

#### THE VIOLENT AND REPEAT OFFENDER ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since S. 10 was voted out of the Judiciary Committee almost one year ago, I have spoken on the floor of the Senate and at hearings on numerous occasions to urge its Republican sponsors to work with me in a bipartisan and open manner to improve this juvenile crime bill. Instead of dialogue, the sponsors of this legislation have played games of "Hide and Seek" with the revisions they were making to the bill.

I am delighted to see reflected in the brief "DRAFT" summary circulated by the sponsors of the bill that they are finally and belatedly making certain changes that they voted down during the Committee's consideration of this bill. The "devil is in the details", however, so I and my Democratic colleagues are eager to see the full text of this revised bill.

Unfortunately, the sponsors of this bill were not willing to work with me last year when we would have had a much better chance of moving this important legislation. Now, as we head toward the end of this Congress and still face a number of vital appropriations matters to consider, time is running out to complete action on a juvenile crime bill. Those who will suffer from the dilatory manner in which this bill was handled are the children of this country and America's law enforcement officers and prosecutors who are eager for the additional resources available in this bill.

I am delighted to see that the legislation is being revised to include changes proposed by Democrats that the Republican sponsors previously rejected, including:

Retention of State Presumption to Prosecute Juveniles: The revised S. 10 will apparently preserve the "presumption in favor of state prosecution" for juveniles who face concurrent state and federal jurisdiction over the offense committed. This language is clearly based on amendments I and others proposed to avoid the federalization of juvenile crime that has prompted expressions of concern by Chief Justice Rehnquist and the Judicial Conference States have had primary responsibility for handling juvenile cases, and they should continue to do so.

Death Penalty: The new S. 10 apparently would not subject juveniles to the federal death penalty, another policy which Democratic members of the Committee insisted upon during Committee debate. As introduced, S. 10 allowed the imposition of the death penalty for juveniles as young as sixteen.

Increased Flexibility for the Incentive Block Grant program: The strict earmarks in this block grant for building more juvenile facilities, drug testing juveniles and enhancing State recordkeeping systems would have imposed a one-size-fits-all strait jacket on the States. The sponsors of the bill, apparently, have finally recognized how critical it is to provide flexibility to the States because State and local officials are much better able to determine how to reduce juvenile delinquency rates in their own communities.

Revised Recordkeeping Provisions: For over a year, I have repeatedly told my colleagues that no State in the nation would be eligible for S. 10's Incentive Block Grant, since none currently complies with the strict recordkeeping requirements. Moreover, at my request, the Department of Justice conducted a study which concluded that the extensive recordkeeping requirements in this bill would cost States "hundreds of millions of dollars." I urged the authors of this bill to narrow the focus of the recordkeeping to those juveniles who are most likely to be repeat offenders, namely, those who commit acts which would be a felony if committed by an adult. The sponsors have apparently finally heeded these common sense concerns and promise to correct these flaws—even though they voted down amendments I proposed to make these corrections.

Increased Funding for Prosecutors: The sponsors have also finally agreed to double the funds available to prosecutors. It is unfortunate that they refused to work this out in Committee last year so that additional prosecutors could be at work right now.

Improved Sight and Sound Separation Requirement: Last year, I joined with Senators BIDEN and KOHL and other Democrats to urge the adoption of the more protective federal standards for juveniles in State detention facilities but the Republican sponsors of S. 10 rejected these changes to the bill. I am delighted to see that this mean-spirited provision may be modified, and that juveniles held in state facilities will have the same protections from adult inmates as juveniles in federal custody.

Dedicated Prevention Funding: Despite being repeatedly rebuffed when I and my fellow Democrats insisted that prevention programs needed dedicated funding, I am pleased that the sponsors of S. 10 apparently have changed their tune and are promising to dedicate funding to prevention programs. A dedicated fund of \$50 million per year is a start.

Revisions to the Federal Firearms Code: I warned my colleagues over a year ago that certain provisions the "Federal Gang Violence Act," incorporated in Title II of S. 10, would lead to the largest increase in the federal regulation of firearms in the history of our nation. No one heeded my advice then, but the sponsors of this bill have apparently finally realized they need to modify these provisions. The revised S. 10 has more than halved the number of firearm offenses that can serve as predicates for gang-related offenses or under the RICO statute.

I remain eager to review the actual text of this revised bill. I also remain hopeful that the sponsors of S. 10 will commit to working openly with me and other Democrats to craft common sense, reasonable approaches to reduce juvenile crime while there is still time in this Congress.

#### OMNIBUS PATENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, now that we have passed legislation to implement the WIPO copyright treaties, it is time for the Senate to consider another bill of critical importance to America's businesses: The Omnibus Patent Act of 1997, S. 507.

The patent bill has been stalled by Republican holds for over a year. It is time that the Senate turn to it and reform our patent laws. The patent bill was based on a proposal submitted by the Clinton Administration several years ago. It was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 22, 1997, with a favorable vote of 17-1 and has the support of every Democrat on the Committee. Its co-sponsors, in addition to myself, include Senators DASCHLE, BINGAMAN, CLELAND, BOXER, HARKIN and LIEBERMAN.

The patent bill would reform the U.S. patent system in important ways. It would slash red tape in the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO); ensure that American inventors are not disadvantaged as compared to foreign inventors by requiring patent applications to be

published in the U.S. at the same time they are published abroad; reduce legal fees that are paid by inventors and companies; and require the PTO to develop statewide computer networks with remote library sites to enhance access to electronic patent information for independent inventors and small businesses in rural states.

In Vermont, we have a number of independent inventors and small companies. It is, therefore, especially important to me that this bill be one that helps them just as much as it helps the larger companies. I talked to independent inventors and representatives of smaller companies to see what reforms they recommended. I invited the President of the Vermont Inventors Association to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on this bill, and I have tried to make sure that the sound recommendations of small businesses and independent inventors were incorporated in the Hatch-Leahy substitute that the Judiciary Committee reported to the Senate over one year ago.

The White House Conference on Small Businesses, which consists of over 2,000 delegates elected from hundreds of thousands of active small businesses nationwide; the National Association of Women Business Owners; the Small Business Technology Coalition; National Small Business United; the National Venture Capital Association; and the American Small Business Coalition for Patent Reform have concluded that, if enacted, this bill will be of great benefit to small businesses.

What is holding up floor consideration of the bill? I think it is time to debate this bill on the merits. The Senate Republican leadership should schedule prompt action on this important measure.

Our nation's economic prosperity in the coming years will depend on our abilities to invent and protect those inventions through our intellectual property laws. American innovators face global competition, and they need updated laws to continue to lead the world. This modernization of our patent laws is an important component of that essential effort. Along with the legislation the Senate recently approved to implement the WIPO copyright treaties, this bill goes a long way to protecting American ingenuity in the next century. Democrats have been ready to proceed to consider this measure for over a year. With less than 53 legislative days left in this session, I urge the Republican leadership to work with us to schedule action on this important bill.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of letters of support for the patent bill and a few examples from those letters be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### LIST OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT OF THE OMNIBUS PATENT ACT OF 1997, S. 507

White House Conference on Small Businesses.

The National Association of Women Business Owners.

The Small Business Technology Coalition.  
National Small Business United.  
The National Venture Capital Association.  
21 Century Patent Coalition—signed by CEOs of 48 American companies.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, PhRMA.

American Automobile Manufacturers Association.

The Software Publishers Association.  
Semiconductor Industry Association.

3M.

IBM.

Intel Corporation.

Caterpillar.

AMP Incorporated.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SMALL BUSINESS,

May 7, 1998.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: The White House Conference on Small Business consists of over 2000 delegates elected from hundreds of thousands of active small businesses nationwide. We are the elected technology chairs of the WHCSB and we are charged with, among other things, representing the interests of small business on matters of intellectual property protection.

The issue of patent reform is one of great concern to small manufacturers and technology enterprises. Over the past two years, we have been working to make modifications to the patent reform bills in both Houses so that they are small-business friendly.

We are pleased to hear that an amendment has been offered addressing our concerns with S. 507. We believe that S. 507, as amended, will lower the litigation costs for small business, make it easier to know what areas of technology are open for innovation, and will go a long way towards giving us a more level playing field vis-a-vis our foreign competitors. We wholeheartedly support passage of the bill and appreciate the attention and support you have given to small business.

Sincerely,

The White House Conference on Small Business Technology Chairs: Pat McDonnell, Region I; Ed Wenger, Region II; Jim Woo, Region II; Bill Budinger, Region III; Wanda Gozdz, Region IV; Rob Risser, Region V; Wayne Barlow, Region VIII; Marianne Hamm, Region IX; Chuck Harlowe, Region X.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS, Silver Spring, June 23, 1998.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: Attached please find a copy of the April 28 letter sent to Senator Orrin Hatch by NAWBO leadership. This letter expresses the position of NAWBO, on behalf of our membership, regarding S.507 and its impact on small business. The letter contains a series of proposed amendments that NAWBO feels are in the best interest of small business owners and for which we would greatly appreciate your support in the upcoming debate on this legislation.

On behalf of NAWBO members and other small business owners, thank you for your time and efforts regarding this issue. If we may be of further assistance please feel free to contact Debra Hickerson in our national office at (301) 608-2590.

Sincerely,

DIAHANN W. LASSUS, CPA, CFP,  
President.