

was issued in response to concerns relating to the Justice Department's enforcement strategies in national health care projects. In response, Congressman DELAHUNT, co-sponsor of H.R. 3523, determined that the written guidance made this new legislation inadvisable. Mr. DELAHUNT then courageously decided to pull back his support for H.R. 3523. Shortly thereafter Congressmen BLILEY, BARTON, DINGELL, STARK, and BERMAN stated in a Dear Colleague that: "The Department's guidelines are quite extensive and sufficient time must be given to allow for their appropriate implementation. A non-legislative solution is the appropriate manner to address their issues."

At this juncture it must be said that the Department of Justice, despite the attacks, despite the rhetoric and despite the misinformation, raised itself up from its bootstraps and, in good faith, issued guidance documenting its implementation of the False Claims Act. And even more amazing, Congressman MCCOLLUM, it is reported, still plans to move forward with the bill that would gut the False Claims Act.

I suppose there are certain people associated with this effort who just don't get it. Who don't mind moving forward despite major questions of credibility. There are many more important issues that I and my staff could have been working on for the last seven months on behalf of the taxpayers. Instead we spent seven months of negative energy trying to put out brush fires as the False Claims Act came under assault.

How anyone could ever suggest someone would enjoy that kind of politics is beyond me. To say the bill is "innocuous" is beyond me. And that's what I mean, Mr. President, when I talk about major questions of credibility.

In the Senate, my colleagues, Senators COCHRAN and HOLLINGS, played a critical role in having the Department of Justice issue responsible guidance to the health care industry without gutting the False Claims Act. In addition, my Senate colleagues worked hand-in-hand with me to develop legislative and report language that assures the future integrity of the False Claims Act and the good faith implementation of the guidance by the Department of Justice. I thank you, Senator COCHRAN and Senator HOLLINGS.

All in all, the history of the assault of the False Claims Act sends us on a long and winding road. But it is important to recognize that future attacks on the False Claims Act are undoubtedly around the corner—this despite the fact that the law's success is in many ways unparalleled in the enforcement community.

Consequently, the False Claims Act is, and will remain, a target of those industries that accept billions and billions of taxpayer dollars annually and balk at strict accountability. I ask only that we, as legislators, remember the history of the assault made upon the False Claims Act by the AHA in the present. I ask further that we agree

to be strong despite the strength of an industry, simply because it is the "right" thing to do. Taxpayers deserve no less—and as legislators, we should deliver no less.

#### DEATH OF ELLISON "BUBBY" MCKISSICK, JR.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, while the Senate was recessed last week, South Carolina lost one of its most prominent citizens, Ellison "Bubby" McKissick, Jr., who was best known as a leader in the textile industry both in the Palmetto State and throughout the United States.

Bubby McKissick passed away, after a long illness, at the rather young age of 69. Though his passing came too soon, he distinguished himself in many ways throughout his life. Not the least of these achievements was serving as the Chairman of Alice Manufacturing, the McKissick family mill and one of the largest textile companies in the Southeast. Additionally, he was a past president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, and a forceful advocate for measures that would make the textile industry more competitive, including promoting education.

While his career ultimately took him to the boardroom, Bubby McKissick learned the textile business from the ground floor of one of his family's facilities, working in some of the most demanding jobs in any mill operation. Additionally, Bubby McKissick served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War, earning the rank of Sergeant, and having the unenviable distinction of being wounded in combat. This was a man who truly did not have anything handed to him on a silver platter, and who knew well the valuable lessons that one can only learn from experience and hard work.

Bubby McKissick's passing is all the more saddening because he was a loyal supporter, and more importantly, a valued friend. I had known Bubby almost literally from the day he was born as his family was well known to me. I was pleased to watch the successes and achievements of this man, both professional and personal, and I take consolation in the fact that he lived a full and rewarding life.

Mr. President, Bubby McKissick's passing leaves a tremendous void not only in our state's corporate community, but in the lives of the many men and women who called him friend. Bubby McKissick will not soon be forgotten, and I am certain that all those who knew him would join me in sending condolences to his family.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 7, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,530,116,137,980.45 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty billion, one hundred sixteen million, one hundred thirty-seven thousand, nine hundred eighty dollars and forty-five cents).

One year ago, July 7, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,355,915,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, nine hundred fifteen million).

Five years ago, July 7, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,337,775,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred thirty-seven billion, seven hundred seventy-five million).

Ten years ago, July 7, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,555,671,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred fifty-five billion, six hundred seventy-one million).

Fifteen years ago, July 7, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,328,914,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred twenty-eight billion, nine hundred fourteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,201,202,137,980.45 (Four trillion, two hundred one billion, two hundred two million, one hundred thirty-seven thousand, nine hundred eighty dollars and forty-five cents) during the past 15 years.

#### NEED FOR ACTION ON KOSOVO

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the use of indiscriminate force by units of the Serbian special police and the Yugoslav armed forces in Kosovo must stop. If unchecked, the violence there could well spillover into Albania and Macedonia and could at some point involve other nations in the region, including our NATO allies.

Acting in the direction of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian police and military units have brutally targeted civilians and used scorched earth tactics with a plan to drive ethnic Albanians out of their towns and villages. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, around 65,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in Kosovo since March and prior to the latest Serbian special police and troop attack on the town of Belacevac.

Of that number, around 12,000 have fled to neighboring Albania across treacherous mountains—some children had to walk barefoot for days. About 8,000 have fled to Montenegro and small numbers have sought refuge in Macedonia, where the United States maintains about 350 Army personnel as part of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force.

Before I comment further on what I believe should be done to address the crisis in Kosovo, I would like to briefly describe how this crisis came about.

Kosovo, with a population of 2 million of which more than 90 percent are ethnic Albanians, enjoyed autonomous province status under the 1974 Yugoslav Constitution. However, changes to the Serbian constitution in 1989 through 1991 revoked that autonomous province status and abolished the Parliament and Government of Kosovo. Since that time, Serbian authorities have carried out a policy of repression: firing ethnic Albanians from all public jobs and using arrests, brutal and often fatal beatings and other forms of intimidation in violation of commonly