

Anyone who confuses this scenario with a slap on the wrist, or a censure written in disappearing ink, underestimates the historic impact of such a pronouncement. Nor should anyone forget the power of television to foster indelible images in the national memory—not unlike what happened on the solemn August noontime in 1974 when I stood in the East-Room and declared our long national nightmare to be over.

At 85, I have no personal or political agenda, nor do I have any interest in "rescuing" Bill Clinton. But I do care, passionately, about rescuing the country I love from further turmoil or uncertainty.

More than a way out of the current mess, most Americans want a way up to something better. In the midst of a far graver national crisis, Lincoln observed, "The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion." We should remember those words in the days ahead. Better yet, we should be guided by them.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for the next 20 minutes for the purpose of introducing a piece of legislation.

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

(The remarks of Ms. LANDRIEU and Mr. BREAUX pertaining to the introduction of S. 2566 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### CONCERN ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN KOSOVO

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, this is a letter I sent to the President this morning concerning Kosovo. It reads as follows:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing because of my serious concern about developments in Kosovo. With a brutality that would be almost unimaginable were anyone else responsible for it, Slobodan Milosevic has subjected yet another innocent population to the bloody carnage of ethnic cleansing. The stark depravity of his actions gravely offends the basic moral values of Western civilization. Moreover, the conflict in Kosovo threatens the stability of Europe, as the prospects are quite real that it may eventually embroil other countries in the region in a larger war. More than once, the United States has warned Serbia that NATO will not tolerate its continued aggression against Kosovo. Serbia has ignored our warnings, thereby challenging the credibility of the United States, obliging us and our NATO allies to consider using military force to prevent further aggression against our values and interests in Kosovo.

Congress has reservations about such a course of action, however. While I am inclined to support military action, I understand the basis for my colleagues' reservations, and I believe it is imperative that prior to ordering any military strike on Serbia you take all necessary steps to ensure both Congress and the American people that the action is necessary, affordable, and designed to achieve clearly defined goals.

First, you must state clearly the American interest in resolving this terrible conflict; describe in detail the facts on the ground; identify all parties responsible for perpetrating the terrible atrocities committed in Kosovo while making clear that Serbia is indisputably the primary culprit; explain how our own security is threatened by Serbian aggression and justifies risking the lives of

American pilots, and how the use of air power can prevent further aggression. You must also define for the public what will constitute the operation's success so that Americans know that air strikes were launched with a realistic end game in mind.

Second, you must convincingly explain to the American people why it is that we should be involved in a conflict that to many people seems to affect our interests indirectly, and that should be resolved exclusively by those countries most directly threatened by our European allies. As I am sure you appreciate, Congress and the public's frustration over Europe's lack of willingness to bear a greater share of the burden for maintaining peace in their own backyard is at an all time high, threatening the nation's consensus that our leadership in NATO should remain a priority interest for the United States. You could go a long way toward alleviating that frustration by ensuring that any ground forces that might ultimately be needed to keep the peace in Kosovo will be provided by European countries alone.

Third, should you order air strikes you must ensure the nation that they will be of sufficient magnitude to achieve their objectives. I hope you will view the following criticism in the constructive spirit in which it is offered. In the past, your administration has too often threatened and then backed down from the use of force, or authorized cruise missile strikes that amounted to little more than ineffective gestures intended, I suspect, to send a message to our adversaries, but because of their small scale interpreted by our adversaries as a lack of resolve on the part of the United States to defend our interests vigorously. Your administration's failure to support UNSCOM inspectors in Iraq has also greatly exacerbated our adversaries' lack of respect for America's resolve.

Finally, you should explain how you intend to find additional resources to fund the operation in order to alleviate well-founded Congressional anxiety regarding the over-extension of U.S. military commitments at a time when spending on national defense is woefully inadequate.

Mr. President, should you convincingly address the issues I have raised, which I believe you can do, I am confident you will have the support of Congress and our constituents for operations against Serbia. You will certainly have mine. I believe there exists a clear and compelling case for such an action that Americans will accept if you avoid the mistakes made in the past when your administration has attempted to build public support for the use of force. I urge to give these concerns your most serious consideration.

#### INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending Coats amendment be 20 minutes in length, 10 minutes on either side.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. I yield the floor.

Mr. COATS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3695

(Purpose: To exempt from the moratorium on Internet taxation any persons engaged in the business of selling or transferring by means of the World Wide Web material that is harmful to minors who do not restrict access to such material by minors)

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) proposes an amendment numbered 3695.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 17, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(C) EXCEPTION TO MORATORIUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall also not apply in the case of any person or entity who in interstate or foreign commerce is knowingly engaged in the business of selling or transferring, by means of the World Wide Web, material that is harmful to minors unless such person or entity requires the use of a verified credit card, debit account, adult access code, or adult personal identification number, or such other procedures as the Federal Communications Commission may prescribe, in order to restrict access to such material by persons under 17 years of age.

(2) SCOPE OF EXCEPTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a person shall not be considered to be engaged in the business of selling or transferring material by means of the World Wide Web to the extent that the person is—

(A) telecommunications carrier engaged in the provision of a telecommunications service;

(B) a person engaged in the business of providing an Internet access service;

(C) a person engaged in the business of providing an Internet information location tool; or

(D) similarly engaged in the transmission, storage, retrieval, hosting, formatting, or translation (or any combination thereof) of a communication made by another person, without selection or alteration of the communication.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) BY MEANS OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB.—The term "by means of the World Wide Web" means by placement of material in a computer server-based file archive so that it is publicly accessible, over the Internet, using hypertext transfer protocol, file transfer protocol, or other similar protocols.

(B) ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS.—The term "engaged in the business" means that the person who sells or transfers or offers to sell or transfer, by means of the World Wide Web, material that is harmful to minors devotes time, attention, or labor to such activities, as a regular course of trade or business, with the objective of earning a profit, although it is not necessary that the person make a profit or that the selling or transferring or offering to sell or transfer such material be the person's sole or principal business or source of income.

(C) INTERNET.—The term "Internet" means the combination of computer facilities and electromagnetic transmission media, and related equipment and software, comprising the interconnected worldwide network of computer networks that employ the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, or any predecessor or successor protocol, to transmit information.

(D) INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term "Internet access service" means a service that enables users to access content, information, electronic mail, or other services offered over the Internet and may also include access to proprietary content, information, and other services as part of a package of services offered to consumers. Such term does not include telecommunications services.