

Government places burdensome regulations on State and local governments as well. Often times these regulations tie the hands of these governments in their attempt to address the needs of their citizens. That is why I introduced S. 88, the Local Empowerment and Flexibility Act of 1995, on the first day of this Congress. The need to provide flexibility to local and State governments is enormous. While I intended to offer S. 88 as an amendment to the legislation on the floor, I did not want to delay passage of this bipartisan bill. However, I will continue to offer the Local Empowerment and Flexibility Act as an amendment to legislation which comes before the Senate. I will also work with other Members to push this legislation forward as I believe it addresses regulations which are often overlooked and are as burdensome as those that this amendment addresses.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is about to pass legislation establishing an expedited procedure for congressional consideration and, where necessary, disapproval of regulations. I believe this is the right choice. The original legislation, which provided for a moratorium on regulations, was fraught with difficulty. It was legislation which could not pass this body and which, if it did, would probably have been vetoed. The approach we take today holds far greater promise for responsible review of regulations. And I applaud the efforts made by Senator NICKLES, Senator REID, and Senator GLENN who floor managed and perfected this legislation.

However, there was one provision inserted in the legislation yesterday that deserves further scrutiny. That provision would require the General Accounting Office to provide a report to Congress on each and every significant regulation promulgated by an agency informing Congress whether the agency has performed its job. Among other things, GAO's functions would include checking out whether the agency consulted with State, local, and tribal governments under the unfunded mandates legislation recently signed into law as well as checking on the agency's compliance with cost-benefit and risk analyses requirements under Executive Order 12866 and under legislation the Committee on Governmental Affairs last week ordered reported.

We are now in conference on the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. In neither body was a single vote cast against that legislation. We all agree the Government generates too much paperwork. While the central complaint concerns burdens on the public, there is also the recognition that Government imposes needless paperwork requirements on itself. In fact, Senators MCCAIN and LEVIN added important provisions to the paperwork legislation that would reduce unnecessary reports to Congress.

Now before those provisions even have a chance to get enacted, the Senate contradicts itself, mandating the

every working day of the year, the vast majority of which will be unnecessary and unread. These reports will cover functions already assigned to OIRA and in some cases duplicate the mission of independent peer review provisions in legislation ordered reported by the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Moreover, we all need to be reminded that serious discussions are underway to cut the budget of GAO by 25 percent. By its own admission, GAO lacks expertise in the area of regulatory review. This would be a new mission for that agency coming at a time when we need to see how the present core mission of GAO can be preserved on a smaller budget.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before contemplating today's bad news about the Federal debt, let's do that little pop quiz again: How many million dollars are in \$1 trillion? When you arrive at an answer, bear in mind that it was Congress that ran up a debt now exceeding \$4.8 trillion.

To be exact, as of the close of business Tuesday, March 28, the total Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at \$4,849,995,857,343.69—meaning that every man, woman, and child in America now owes \$18,410.67 computed on a per capita basis.

Mr. President, again to answer the pop quiz question, How many million in a trillion? There are a million million in a trillion; and you can thank the U.S. Congress for the existing Federal debt exceeding \$4.8 trillion.

#### CIA LINKS TO GUATEMALAN MURDERS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am deeply troubled by new information reported in the New York Times and elsewhere linking the CIA to those responsible for the murders of United States citizen Michael DeVine and Efrain Bamaca Velasquez, the Guatemalan husband of United States citizen Jennifer Harbury. At this point, we do not have all the facts necessary to get a full picture of what occurred, but these preliminary reports raise serious questions.

For most of the last 30 years, systematic human rights violations have been committed with impunity against Guatemalan civilians. The political repression and deplorable practices of the Guatemalan military—extrajudicial killings, political kidnappings, and death threats—have taken the lives of at least 100,000 citizens since the early 1980's.

It is because of Guatemala's miserable human rights record that I have closely followed the cases involving U.S. citizens, including the case of Jennifer Harbury's husband and Michael Devine. Over the last 2 years, I have taken several steps to find information

regarding the whereabouts and status of Mr. Bamaca, Mr. DeVine and others who have disappeared or been murdered in Guatemala. I have written letters or inquiry to the President, the National Security Council, and to the President of Guatemala, Ramiro De Leon Carpio, expressing my concern with these cases. Last year, I also introduced legislation urging the need for greater protection of human rights in Guatemala.

Throughout these efforts, and specifically on the case of Jennifer Harbury, I have been told that every attempt was being made to investigate her case, so that she could finally know the fate of her husband. Likewise, Congress has pressed time and again to resolve the questions surrounding the killing of Michael DeVine, an American innkeeper who was brutally murdered in Guatemala in 1990.

And now it is being reported that a Guatemalan Army colonel linked to the deaths of Michael Devine and Jennifer Harbury's husband was, in fact, employed by the CIA and twice trained by the United States Army.

According to Thomas Stroock, who served as United States Ambassador to Guatemala from 1989 til 1992, our Embassy, having investigated Mr. DeVine's murder, came to the conclusion that Col. Julio Roberto Alpirez was behind it. Reportedly, Ambassador Stroock then told his staff at the Embassy that they were to have nothing more to do with the colonel. Nonetheless, reports indicate that the CIA station chief in Guatemala keep Col. Alpirez on the payroll for nearly 2 more years. The reports go on to indicate that much later the CIA, in 1992, paid Alpirez a lump sum of \$44,000 for intelligence work done for the Agency, nearly 46 times the average yearly income in Guatemala. If these reports are true, it is difficult to understand how and why the policy carried out by the CIA was so clearly at odds with the policy established years earlier by the U.S. Ambassador. How could the CIA justify providing U.S. taxpayer dollars to this criminal? And whom did the CIA station chief answer to, if not the U.S. Ambassador?

The Clinton administration must continue to push the Guatemalan Government to prosecute Alpirez and any others who were involved in these murders. And if the reports I have described here are true, the CIA must be held accountable for their deeply troubling involvement.

It is equally of concern to me that Col. Alpirez evidently oversaw the killing of Michael DeVine just 6 months after Alpirez had graduated from an elite course for senior officers at the School of the Americas, a U.S. Army School in Fort Benning, GA. It was the second time that U.S. taxpayers paid to train Col. Alpirez, who evidently then went on to thank this country by ordering the murder of one of our own citizens.