

these occupied territories—the Croatian Government may not have taken the action it did on Monday. Let us not forget, the occupied areas are part of the territory of Croatia. So while the international community should urge the Croatian Government and its forces to fully respect the human and civil rights of the population in the areas they have retaken, it should not urge Croatia to give up control of reclaimed territory.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK—1995

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize some very special businesses in my home State of South Dakota during National Small Business Week. Through work on the Senate Committee on Small Business for 17 of my 21 years in Congress, I know small businesses have not always enjoyed the recognition and attention they deserve. For too long, America's entrepreneurs have been taken for granted. These dynamic men and women play a critical role in this Nation's economy. During the last major recession, small businesses created 4.1 million jobs, while large firms reduced employment by 500,000 jobs. Without the spirit, drive, and determination of small businesses, our economy would not have been able to break out of the economic stagnancy of the early 1990's. Clearly, this sector of our economy is finally getting the respect it is due.

While credit availability has improved significantly and now appears stable, we must continue to monitor this situation. Without adequate financing, entrepreneurs will not be able to get out of the gate. Likewise, I am encouraged by recent efforts in Congress to decrease the burdens of Federal regulations and paperwork. And while the Senate still is deliberating S. 565, the Product Liability Fairness Act of 1995, I hope we will be able to protect small manufacturers from frivolous lawsuits by enacting sensible tort reforms.

Though we have worked to level the playing field for small businesses, small firms now face unique problems. America and the world are in the throws of an information technology revolution. The ability of an enterprise to use high-technology tools very well may dictate whether the business survives. We must ensure established and fledgling small businesses are able to be players in the technological arena. We must ensure small firms wishing to provide high-technology goods and services have access to credit and capital. Because the very nature of capital assets tends to be less tangible, small firms may have difficulty securing the traditional forms of collateral lenders often seek. Is it possible to put a value on the time, effort, and knowledge of a software developer? I do not know. However, from my position as chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I hope to identify solutions to these potential roadblocks.

Mr. President, I would be remiss if I also did not raise some of the unique challenges rural small businesses face. South Dakota's 1995 Small Business Person of the Year has defied conventional wisdom that says a successful manufacturing business must be located in an urban area. In 1982, Randy Boyd returned to his native Geddes, SD, where he joined his father in a gunsmith and gun repair business. By 1986, their operation hired three employees to assist in the manufacturing of gunstocks for shotguns and big game rifles. Since then, their venture has expanded to 25 full time, 10 part-time, and 10 contract employees. Boyd's Gunstock Industries, Inc., currently is one of the country's leading gunstock manufacturers.

I commend Randy Boyd for the well deserved honor of being named South Dakota Small Business Person of the Year. He is an inspiration to other entrepreneurs with a dream and a willingness to work hard to see that dreams take shape.

During my visit with Randy this week, I learned he would like to expand Boyds' Gunstock even further. Unfortunately, he has encountered a limitation many burgeoning small businesses face in rural States like South Dakota. Randy wants very badly to keep his operation in the small city of Geddes. In order to overcome the community's limited work force, Randy has aggressively pursued workers from surrounding communities. Though such efforts have been successful for Randy in the past, he is discovering that the city of Geddes lacks affordable housing for these new employees. Indeed, it would be a tremendous loss for the community if this opportunity is lost.

I will be working with Randy and the community of Geddes to try to resolve a problem that has become all too common for communities across my State. Private investments in real estate must be both appealing and lucrative. As I said during my visit with Randy, I will promote tax incentives that, in turn, will promote economic growth. It is important that we continue to cultivate a climate that will stimulate small business growth. We must reward and encourage entrepreneurs such as Randy Boyd to continue their efforts.

I again congratulate Randy for his success and the success of Boyds' Gunstock. I also would like to recognize some of my State's other businesses leaders. I congratulate: Arlin W. Anderson of the South Dakota American Legion, Veteran Small Business Advocate of the Year; William F. Carlson of Tower Systems, Inc., Small Business Exporter; John E. Brewer of Rushmore State Bank, Financial Services Advocate; Eileen Lunderman of the Sincangu Enterprise Center, Minority Small Business Advocate; Brenda Wade Schmidt of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, Media Advocate, and Jan Steensland of Eyes on You magazine, Women in Business Advocate.

Each of these individuals has played a very important role in making small

businesses the driving force behind South Dakota's vibrant economy. I am proud of their generous efforts. They have contributed tremendously to their neighbors and friends. It is the duty of Congress and the Federal Government to allow them to continue making such important contributions. Often this can best be achieved staying out of their way.

Again, Mr. President, I salute South Dakota's 1995 National Small Business Week Award winners and thank them for their efforts.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, Thursday, May 4, the Federal debt stood at \$4,854,832,235,127.63. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,429.03 as his or her share of that debt.

Mr. DORGAN. I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JEFFORDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to speak for a short period of time about several key pieces of reform legislation. I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

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

POLITICAL REFORM LEGISLATION LONG PAST DUE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to express my deep concern—and even some indignation—that several key pieces of reform legislation continue to be bottled up in the Congress, including the gift ban, the lobbying reform bill, and tough, sweeping campaign finance reforms. I am more convinced than ever that one of the key issues, maybe the root issue of American politics, is the way in which we now have to finance campaigns. And the sooner we move toward a system where we are able to get a lot of the bigger money out of politics and have a level playing field for incumbents and challengers and figure out how to do this in a sane way, the sooner we will have a much better political system.

The lobbying disclosure bill, a key piece of legislation that Senator LEVIN has taken important leadership on, is really simple and straightforward. But just to summarize, what this legislation says is that those who are actually