

If he did not say this, then this is unwarranted, what I am saying. But I just do not think that after all the time and all the effort we have made here, the men in the Senate—not just the women in the Senate—the men in the Senate, the people on this floor, to deal with the Violence Against Women Act, which is all about changing attitudes—and my friend, the Senator from the State of Arizona, I know how he feels about these things. I know how he votes on these things. I know how the Senator from Mississippi and the Senator from Iowa feel about this. We have tried very hard to change attitudes, attitudes about women and whether or not women are property, whether or not women are “our woman,” whether or not we men have a right to ever touch them. That has been a central debate in this Nation.

And to have one of the highest ranking military officers of the United States of America saying—in command of thousands of young, impressionable men—that his response to this tragedy, instead of being an instinctive gut-wrenching anger and empathy, is, “They could have gotten a girl.” Why would he do this? That is simple. Unfortunately, we know a fair number of people think like this. “This is kind of dumb. If they wanted sex, they could have gotten and bought it in Okinawa for the price they rented the car. That is a reasonable calculation, is it not?”

And until recently, the last decade or so, that was kind of an accepted notion. “We should think of these things logically.” Well, my God, it is absolutely—I mean, all the debates that we have had on the floor, all the times—and, Mr. President, if there is anyone who is guilty of “hoof in mouth” disease, if there is anyone who has stuck his foot in his mouth more than this Senator, if there is anybody that has made more verbal faux pas than me, I do not know.

I challenge anyone to think, in 23 years, of any time I have gotten up on the floor and criticized someone like this for misspeaking, because I am a champion at it, I have made a career of it, unfortunately, but, thank God, never on something like this, never on something that has affected someone, affected the representation of the philosophy of a nation.

Mr. HARKIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. BIDEN. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senate for bringing this to my attention. I never heard of this, like the Senator from Arizona. I can say, as someone who spent 4 years in the Navy ROTC, 5 years as a Navy pilot on active duty, 3 more years in the Active Reserve flying for the Navy—that adds up to a lot of time in the Navy—I have an instinctive pride in the Navy. We all do, those of us who served. And I love the Navy. I love its rich history. But I must say to the Senator from Delaware, that if this is true—I just heard this; I went over and read the AP wire report that the Senator had—I say, if this is true, if this is

what Admiral Macke said, I would go the Senator one better. It is not that he should be disciplined. Our Commander in Chief, the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, which is the President of the United States, ought to bring him to Washington and publicly strip him of his rank and take away his commission in the U.S. Navy.

The Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, the President of the United States, has the power to do that. And I call upon President Clinton, if this is true—and I share the Senator's thought—I want to make sure that he actually said that. If Admiral Macke said that, I call upon President Clinton to bring Admiral Macke to Washington, strip him of his rank, take away his commission, and deny him all the benefits that he has accrued as a naval officer to send a signal to every other naval officer that this kind of action, this kind of attitude, will never be tolerated again in the United States Navy.

I thank the Senator for bringing this to our attention. It is a sad day for those of us who so dearly love the United States Navy.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I will not take any more time—I see the Republican leader—except to say it was not—I cannot take credit or blame for bringing this to the attention of the Senate. It was the Senator from California. But let me just say, to look at it the other way around, let us assume that Japanese troops—let me give it an analogy. When the Prime Minister of Japan made a reference several years ago that the reason why we were not productive is because of race relations with our black population, this country, understandably, was in a furor. And it ended up being one of the elements to bring down that Prime Minister in his own country.

Let me just ask the rhetorical question—and I will yield the floor after I do—what do we think we would do if a 12-year-old girl was driven to a cornfield in any one of our States by three Japanese servicemen stationed in the United States of America, was brutally raped, and one of the Japanese sailors saying, “I did it,” in open court, and then the commander of the Japanese fleet, sitting off of San Diego, said in an interview with American reporters, that “This was stupid on the part of the Japanese sailors. All they had to do was, for the money they had to rent a car in San Diego, they could have went and gotten a girl and had her”?

Can you imagine the indignation of this Nation? There would be every other Senator on the floor of this Nation demanding a public apology and action taken against that admiral. I just think sometimes we do not understand that what is good for the goose is good for the gander. We do not understand how people feel. We never put ourselves in their shoes.

And I will say, if we had a problem with United States-Japanese relations

before, as a consequence of this rape, just what are they now? Purely in terms of the United States naked self-interest in the relations with Japan, what has this guy done, if this is true?

I think it is deplorable. I do not know—I am not as certain as my friend from Iowa what the appropriate action is—but I just think as a Nation, we should be publicly apologizing to the people of Japan and we should be publicly vilifying anyone who says things like this.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HARKIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on that evening in 1972 when I first was elected to the Senate, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

It has proved enormously beneficial to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited during the nearly 23 years I have been in the Senate.

Most of them have been concerned about the total Federal debt which is slightly in excess of \$11 billion shy of \$5 trillion (which will be exceeded later this year). Of course, Congress is responsible for creating this monstrosity for which the coming generations will have to pay.

The young people and I almost always discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 25, 1992. I wanted to make a matter of daily record the precise size of the Federal debt which, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, November 16, stood at \$4,989,792,104,452.15 or \$18,941.34 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt since my report yesterday (which identified the total Federal debt as of close of business on Wednesday, November 15, 1995) shows an increase of \$1,452,054,077.58. That increase is equivalent to the amount of money needed by 215,311 students to pay their college tuitions for 4 years.

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM DESIGNATION ACT

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise to voice my support for the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995.

It shows Congress' continued commitment to returning authority to our partners in State governments. On March 22, President Clinton signed into law Senate Bill 1, a bill to stop unfunded Federal mandates on State and