

that he believes that while "Beijing clearly prefers negotiation to combat," there is a new sense of urgency in Beijing to end Taiwan's quest for "independent international status."

Mr. Freeman said that President's Lee's behavior "in the weeks following his re-election will determine" whether Beijing's Communist Party leaders feel they must act "by direct military means" to change his behavior.

In recent months, Mr. Freeman said he has relayed a number of warnings to United States Government officials. "I have quoted senior Chinese who told me" that China "would sacrifice 'millions of men' and 'entire cities' to assure the unity of China and who opined that the United States would not make comparable sacrifices."

He also asserted that "some in Beijing may be prepared to engage in nuclear blackmail against the U.S. to insure that Americans do not obstruct" efforts by the People's Liberation Army "to defend the principles of Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan and Chinese national unity."

Some specialists at the meeting wondered if Mr. Freeman's presentation was too alarmist and suggested that parliamentary elections on Taiwan in December had resulted in losses for the ruling Nationalist Party and that President Lee appeared to be moderating his behavior to avoid a crisis.

"I am not alarmist at this point," said one specialist, who would not comment on the substance of the White House meeting. "I don't think the evidence is developing in that direction."

Other participants in the White House meeting, who said they would not violate the confidentiality pledge of the private session, separately expressed their concern that a potential military crisis is building in the Taiwan Strait.

"I think there is evidence to suggest that the Chinese are creating at least the option to apply military pressure to Taiwan if they feel that Taiwan is effectively moving out of China's orbit politically," said Kenneth Lieberthal, a China scholar at the University of Michigan and an informal adviser to the Administration.

Mr. Lieberthal, who also has traveled to China in recent months, said Beijing has re-deployed forces from other parts of the country to the coastal areas facing Taiwan and set up new command structures "for various kinds of military action against Taiwan."

"They have done all this in a fashion they know Taiwan can monitor," he said, "so as to become credible on the use of force."

"I believe there has been no decision to use military force" he continued, "and they recognize that it would be a policy failure for them to have to resort to force; but they have set up the option, they have communicated that in the most credible fashion and, I believe, the danger is that they would exercise it in certain circumstances."

Several experts cited their concern that actions by Congress in the aftermath of President Lee's expected election could be a critical factor contributing to a military confrontation. If President Lee perceives that he has a strong base of support in the United States Congress and presses forward with his campaign to raise Taiwan's status, the risk of a military crisis is greater, they said. A chief concern is that Congress would seek to invite the Taiwan leader back to the United States as a gesture of American support. A Chinese military leader warned in November that such a step could have "explosive" results.

In recent months, American statements on whether United States forces would come to the defense of Taiwan if it came under attack have been deliberately vague so as to

deter Beijing through a posture of what the Pentagon calls "strategic ambiguity."

Some members of Congress assert that the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 includes an implicit pledge to defend Taiwan if attacked, but Administration officials say that, in the end, the decision would depend on the timing, pretext and nature of Chinese aggression.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the Federal Government is, as the saying goes, living on borrowed time, not to mention borrowed money—nearly \$5 trillion of it. As of the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, January 23, the Federal debt stood at \$4,987,963,203,048.04. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,932.74 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

MARY BRENNAN'S PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I rise to share with my colleagues the wonderful example of Mary P. Brennan, an extraordinary woman who combined the best qualities of politics and public service.

Mary Brennan, who retired last month as marketing director for Green State Airport after an extraordinary career in politics and public service, lost her battle with breast cancer earlier this month.

In a time when politicians and public servants are the targets of unusually harsh criticism, Mary was a sterling example of how some people were created to ennoble both politics and public service.

If you knew Mary, you felt special. It did not matter if your station were high or low, you received the warmth of her charm, the depth of her compassion and the inspiration of her "can do" spirit.

When she retired after 11 years as marketing director at Green State Airport, it was noted that often she would take 30 minutes to make her way across the airport terminal because she would bump into so many people she knew.

All who knew her, whether in her earlier job as executive aide to former Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy or her most recent job as marketing director, knew that she would put in 150 percent effort.

When asked why she worked so hard for so many people, Mary replied: "If you care about people, you want to service them to the utmost. You start something right, you finish it right."

She was loyal to public service and she valued loyalty above all other virtues. "When you make a commitment to someone," she said, "you keep it."

Mr. President, we will miss Mary tremendously in Rhode Island. I will think of her when I fly into Rhode Island. It also is easy to hark back to an earlier decade and picture her hard at work in the Rhode Island State House.

Governor Garrahy delivered a heartfelt eulogy that I would like to share with my colleagues. I ask unanimous consent that his remarks and obituaries from the Providence, RI, Journal and the Woonsocket, RI, Call be printed in the RECORD as if read.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS BY FORMER RHODE ISLAND GOV. J. JOSEPH GARRAHY

Mary Brennan—say her name and you are guaranteed to smile. That's because her warmth, her care, her enthusiastic approach to life was contagious. She touched us all.

I can think of no higher honor than to have been asked to speak about my friend, our friend, Mary. My single regret is that I have to do this so soon, so early.

Like all of you, I have a special place in my heart reserved for Mary. She caught my attention 30 years ago and will forever hold it.

To know Mary was to know all the Brennans and the Partingtons, because special above everyone was her family. She came from such solid stock—Bumpsie and Mumsie. At the wonderful age of 91, it was Mumsie who cared for the daughter who loved her so. And boy if there were ever two peas in a pod, it was Mary and Mumsy. We admire your strength Mumsy and your faith. A faith that Mary carried with her throughout her life.

And Mary had a special sisterly bond with her brothers Bill and John. She would defend and care for them and they for her.

Her pride and joy were her two sons—Brian and Sean. She used to say how much like John, Brian was. And boy was she beaming last April at his and Sally's wedding. Sean was with her every step of the way—she was so proud of his work in Alaska and Hawaii and encouraged him to follow his dream. Typical Mary—always selfless.

They were blessed to have her. And, we were all blessed because Mary made us part of her extended family. She adopted each of us and we were better for it. A special thanks to Little Lynne who adopted Mary and was a great comfort in her final days.

All of us could easily be overwhelmed by grief of our great loss. Or we can proceed as Mary would have us—remembering our special times together and understanding what a special woman she was.

Mary has affected more lives than any newspaper report can ever catalogue. Each of us carries memories and stories of how Mary affected us. Every one of my days as Governor could be footnoted with a Mary Brennan story. Whether it was the difficult days of the oil crisis or celebrating RI's true ethnic diversity at one heritage celebration or another, or planning a President's visit, welcoming the most needy citizen in the State Room or working hour after hour during the Blizzard to get food and heat to the stranded, Mary was always there. She could even convince a group of angry voters that I was good, even if I wasn't right!

And I am convinced that were it not for Mary's wise counsel to Lynne Ryan—she and Michael would not be raising a family today. I can hear her words of advice, "Lynne, be patient. He's Irish!"

Service to others was Mary's hallmark. An honorable devoted, and selfless public servant. From her early days running her own travel agency to the Heritage years and nearly a decade in the Governor's Office to her airport, travel and tourism time, Mary continuously served others. She would say "if you care about people, you want to service them to the utmost." We all have a story of how Mary extended herself to each of us.