

international flight, nor did I need to pass through customs on my way. And while my passport is in order, I can assure you I did not need it to land at Albuquerque International Sunport.

I might also remind the Senate, and also the Olympic organizers in Atlanta, that New Mexico was admitted to the Union as the 47th State in January 1912. It lies directly south of Colorado, east of Arizona, west of Texas, and north of the Mexican border. Let me repeat, north of the Mexican border. You may know it as one of the larger pieces in jigsaw puzzles of the United States.

In fact, New Mexico has one of the longest histories of any State in the Union, starting with our ancient Indian cultures, almost four centuries of Hispanic ancestry, and nearly 200 years of American settlement. It is a dramatic land of scenic vistas and 1.5 million proud citizens.

And let me remind the Olympic office that we had good reason to be proud during the last Olympics, for we had a great champion from New Mexico—Trent Dimas, who earned a gold medal in gymnastics. When Trent Dimas won this medal, it wasn't "O Fair New Mexico," New Mexico's State song, that was played during the ceremony. They played the National Anthem of the United States—surely an indicator that even in the context of the Olympics, New Mexicans are proud U.S. citizens. And those New Mexican athletes who visit the State of Georgia this summer to attend the Summer Olympics will do so as citizens of the United States, cheering our other terrific American athletes.

Let me wrap up by assuring the Atlanta ticket office that we in New Mexico are well practiced in the use of U.S. currency. We, too, use the dollar and not the peso. We're also well accustomed to potable drinking water and to driving our cars on the right side of the road. And I can't even imagine that those unique Southern accents will give New Mexicans any trouble.

So today, I put a little note in Senator NUNN's and Senator COVERDELL's mailboxes, asking them if they would do us a favor in New Mexico and vouch for us to the Olympic Committee in Georgia—and I'm assuming that would be Georgia, USA, not Georgia, Russia. Perhaps they could each send a note to the good people of Georgia to remind them that New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment, is a State. No need to refer New Mexicans to any embassy, customs office, passport center, or currency exchange office. We're one of you.

THE TRAVIS LETTER

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, this month marked the sesquicentennial of the end of the Republic of Texas.

But I rise this morning to celebrate the beginning of our Republic, not its end. One hundred sixty years ago Sat-

urday, March 2, a band of Texans gathered in Washington-on-the-Brazos and declared our Independence from Mexico. Around them raged a fierce war for that Independence. I would like the Senate to remember the many brave Texans who gave their lives in that war as I read the last letter sent from the Alamo on February 24, 1836. In reading this letter, I continue a tradition begun by my late friend, Senator John Tower. Here then is the letter of Col. William Barrett Travis, from his fort at San Antonio.

To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world:

Fellow citizens and compatriots—I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism and everything dear to the American character to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his own honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted house 80 to 90 bushels and got in the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

William B. Travis.—The Alamo, February 24, 1839.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, 4 years ago I commenced these daily reports to the Senate to make a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of the close of business the previous day.

In that report (February 27, 1992) the Federal debt stood at \$3,825,891,293,066.80, as of the close of business the previous day. The point is, the federal debt has escalated by \$1,190,735,080,843.14 since February 26, 1992.

As of the close of business yesterday, February 28, 1996, the Federal debt stood at exactly \$5,016,626,373,909.94. On a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$19,041.54 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

IMPORTED FOREIGN OIL BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending February 23, the United States imported 6,094,000 barrels of oil each day, a 6.5-percent increase over the 5,698,000 barrels imported during the same period 1 year ago.

Americans continue to rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of their needs, and there are no signs that this upward trend will abate.

According to the January 30, New York Times article "Odds of Another Oil Crisis: Saudi Stability Plays a Large Role," Saudi Arabia, which sits on 25 percent of the world's proven oil reserves—that's approximately 260 billion barrels—is politically vulnerable. There is increasing tension between the Sunni majority and the Shiite minority; tensions within the royal family have been widely reported.

Mr. President, a power struggle could easily lead to violence with a disastrous effect on the price of oil. Of course, we all pray that Saudi Arabia remains stable, politically, economically, and otherwise. This is a concern that has bothered me for years.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the aforementioned article be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks and, needless to say, I hope Senators and their staffs will heed the very explicit warning in it.

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

ODDS OF ANOTHER OIL CRISIS: SAUDI STABILITY PLAYS A LARGE ROLE

(By Agis Salpukas)

Oil Shock III. Could it happen again?

With supplies of oil plentiful and the price of gasoline, adjusted for inflation, as low as it was in the bountiful 1950's, the notion that the world will go through another spike in oil prices like those in 1973-74 and 1979 seems farfetched. And with Iraq apparently on the verge of re-entering the market, nothing is likely to change soon. Indeed, prices may fall for a while.

But some oil industry experts—worried that Saudi Arabia, the linchpin of the world oil market, may be more vulnerable politically than is generally believed—are raising the specter of an oil price surge for the first time in years.

The talk has intensified because of the possibility, remote as it may be, of a battle to succeed the ailing King Fahd between Crown Prince Abdullah, the King's half brother, and Prince Sultan, a full brother. Both men control large armies.

On Jan. 1, the 74-year-old King handed over authority to Crown Prince Abdullah, 72, for an unspecified time while he recovered from exhaustion. The Crown Prince, long designated to succeed the King, is known as an Arab nationalist who may be less open than King Fahd to American policies.

Civil war between rivals for power or between the Sunni majority and the Shiite minority cannot be ruled out, says David P. Hodel, Secretary of Energy under President Ronald Reagan. And any instability in Saudi Arabia, which sits on 25 percent of the world's proven oil reserves, or 260 billion barrels, would have wide repercussions. The tendency in the United States, he warns, has been to "go merrily on our way as if there is no potential problem to world oil supply until it is too late."

"Sadly," he added, "the consequences can be devastating."

Most political leaders and industry executives say there is nothing to worry about. Another oil crisis is always possible, they concede, but it is highly remote. The United Nations World Economic and Social Survey 1995 confidently predicts that the real price for oil will remain roughly constant for the next 20 years.

"Nobody can say it won't happen," said Alfred C. DeCrane Jr., the chairman and chief