

major reason that Commander Stumpf has had some trouble was, once again, the top leadership of the U.S. Navy failed to do the routine thing when they submitted Stumpf to the Armed Services Committee for us to discharge our responsibilities that we have sworn to uphold. They just forgot.

It was a legitimate error. I do not believe it was intentional, but it was another error, another shortcoming of some of the leadership of the U.S. Navy.

I simply say that the Armed Services Committee, nor any of its members, are at fault. Yet, our integrity is being questioned because of what we collectively did and thought was our duty.

Let me close, if I might, by giving my own personal view, without detailing any of the information at my disposal that, for good reasons, I am sworn to protect. I know most or all of the details, some of them sordid, about Tailhook. I happen to feel that Commander Stumpf may be being overly criticized for some things. It is true, in the opinion of this Senator, that he was not in that room at a time when an act was taking place that I think would have probably guaranteed that he not be recommended for promotion. He got out in time. But he did not do anything about anything that he saw going on.

But I simply say and emphasize once again that I am not one of those who feel that Commander Stumpf should be blacklisted, should be eliminated for consideration—and I emphasize consideration—by the Armed Services Committee in carrying out its responsibilities. My view is that circumstances following the unfortunate foul-up by the top echelon in the U.S. Navy in not giving us the information is the main reason for the problem.

But what happened after that? And this is something that I feel very strongly about. After that happened, we began to see articles appearing, although none of the authors came to see me. The old boy network took over for a top gun.

Let me emphasize that again. The old boy network took over for a top gun and dedicated themselves to seeing, as quickly as possible, that the promotion was granted.

I think—and I am very much upset with Commander Stumpf—that he did not take the first logical step that he could, should, and had the right to take, by appealing to a board that looks after these things, called the correction board. No, he bypassed that, because the other top guns and their supporters went to work by lobbying.

So it seems to me that if and when I have a responsibility to discharge, as one member, my duties as one member of the Armed Services Committee, I would not, having known what I know, interfere with Stumpf's promotion on the basis of Tailhook. Some other Members may not see it that way. But I am very much concerned about an individual that we look to, and certainly

is one of the finest performing officers that we have today in the U.S. Navy, there is no question about that, but there are other things that we look for when we go through the promotion scheme. In all likelihood, Commander Stumpf, if and when he is promoted—as I think he will be, eventually, to captain; he is very likely to become an admiral someday. There are lots of things beside your ability to fly and your courage in battle that play into the promotion role.

As much as anything else, I simply say that as far as this Senator is concerned, the hiring of a lawyer without going through the proper procedures is a step in the wrong direction and emphasizes what I am most concerned about in this particular matter, and that is that the Navy, unto themselves, with the machoism that they show time and time again, decided they were going to get the Armed Services Committee, regardless of our faithfulness, regardless of what we have done, regardless of what we will do as members of that committee in the future.

And the crowning blow, although I recognize that he has a right to do it, was a Washington Post news story of March 19 that I will submit for the RECORD. The headline is "Tailhook Figure Files Suit Over Navy Promotion." Going to the courts, hiring a lawyer to get what he wants and is probably entitled to, it seems to me was not the wise way to proceed.

I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. (See exhibit 1.)

Mr. EXON. Some will disagree with me, probably, about Commander Stumpf. But the main reason for my appearing on the floor tonight was to try to set the record straight as to the legitimate role that the Armed Services Committee has played in this matter. We played the role right by the book.

I happen to feel, when Commander Stumpf comes before us again, he may be approved. He might get my support. But I will be asking some questions about why the lawsuit, why the full-court press by some of his friends, trying to discredit, by their actions, the legitimate steps and actions and decisions made by the Armed Services Committee?

Mr. President, I think we have not heard the last of this matter. I think it is just another bungled handling of a situation by certain top leadership in the U.S. Navy, and I will simply say to Commander Stumpf that had the information been furnished to us when it was not about what happened, or that he was even at that Tailgate party 5 years ago, I would have voted to send Stumpf on through after I took a look and had a thorough briefing on what the allegations against him were. I do not think they were that serious.

But the U.S. Navy is the one that caused Commander Stumpf his prob-

lem. His friends are in the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### EXHIBIT 1

#### TAILHOOK FIGURE FILES SUIT OVER NAVY PROMOTION

A former commander of the Blue Angels squadron, who was cleared of wrongdoing in the Tailhook scandal, has accused Navy Secretary John H. Dalton of improperly blocking his promotion to captain.

In a suit filed Friday in federal court in Alexandria, Cmdr. Robert E. Stumpf said Dalton bowed to political pressure from Capitol Hill. Stumpf, stationed at Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach, asked that he be given his promotion as of July 1995.

Stumpf's was one of the most high-profile cases resulting from the 1991 Tailhook convention of Navy aviators, in which dozens of women and female officers complained of sexual harassment. A three-officer panel found that Stumpf left a Las Vegas hotel suite before a stripper performed oral sex on an officer.

The suit said Congress approved Stumpf's promotion after Dalton inadvertently failed to notify Capitol Hill of Stumpf's Tailhook connection. Dalton, pressured by the Senate Armed Services Committee, withdrew Stumpf from a promotion list in December.

The suit said federal law allows a promotion approved by Congress to be canceled only if an officer "is mentally, physically, morally or professionally unqualified."

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### COMMENDING THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I want to commend the hard work, competitive spirit, and teamwork recently exhibited by thousands of young people across South Dakota during the State High School Boys' Basketball Tournament.

Each year during late February and early March, towns from across the State come together in support of their high school basketball teams in district, regional, and State tournaments. This exciting period culminated last week with three teams from across South Dakota winning State championships in their respective divisions.

There is a tremendous amount of pride that each community in South Dakota feels for its high school sports teams. Having grown up in one of those communities, I know that each time a high school team is successful, its community glows with the same accomplishment. Communities like these are still proud of their young people's abilities, their hard work, and their determination to work together and achieve a common goal, both on and off the court.

Today, I would like to congratulate all of the teams who participated in this year's tournaments. In particular, I would like to commend the high schools of Warner, Douglas, and Mitchell for having earned their respective State boys' basketball championship titles in 1996. Clearly, these schools exemplify the commitment to excellence and teamwork that all South Dakota high schools share with their communities.

#### HOW MUCH FOREIGN OIL BEING CONSUMED BY UNITED STATES? HERE'S TODAY'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that, for the week ending March 15, the U.S. imported 7,145,000 barrels of oil each day, 752,000 barrels more than the 6,393,000 barrels imported during the same period a year ago.

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

The increasingly dangerous U.S. dependency on foreign oil must be addressed by those who care about restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers.

The American people should consider the economic calamity that will occur if and when foreign producers shut off our supply, or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 7,145,000 barrels a day. We must not delay in seeking to solve this troubling problem.

#### THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

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

In that first report—February 27, 1992—the Federal debt the previous day stood at \$3,825,891,293,066.80, as of the close of business. The point is, the Federal debt has since shot further into the stratosphere.

As of yesterday at the close of business, a total of \$1,233,906,465,897.14 has been added to the Federal debt since February 26, 1992, meaning that as of the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 20, 1996, the exact Federal debt stood at \$5,059,797,758,963.94. (On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,131.71 as his or her share of the Federal debt.)

#### FRANKLIN N. MEISSNER DAY ON THE SOUTH SHORE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of Massachusetts' finest citizens, Franklin N. Meissner, and his contributions to the business

community on the south shore of Massachusetts.

Next Tuesday, March 26, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Frank Meissner, who is the chamber's past chairman. The south shore chamber is currently the second largest chamber of commerce in Massachusetts, and it is also one of the largest suburban business organizations in the country. With its substantial resources and its committed membership, the chamber has been an instrumental factor in promoting economic growth and community development that benefits all families in southern Massachusetts.

Frank Meissner has been deeply involved in all of these initiatives and he deserves great credit for their success. He is currently the president of Electro Switch Corp., which employs almost 300 people. He also serves as director of both the Bank of Braintree and the South Shore Hospital, and is also the past president and still an active member of the Weymouth Rotary Club.

I congratulate Frank Meissner for his many achievements and for his leadership in so many effective ways for the people of the South Shore. March 26 is truly Franklin N. Meissner Day on the south shore, and all of us are proud of him.

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am honored to be a sponsor of the resolution designating March 25, 1996 as Greek Independence Day.

On this, the 175th anniversary of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire, we honor the courageous struggle by the Greeks to regain their freedom. After being ruled by the Ottoman Turks for four centuries, the people of Greece were able to restore democracy for the Nation where democracy was first born in the ancient world.

The people of Greece have made extraordinary contributions to all nations of the world, and no country has benefited more from these contributions than the United States. It has been said that except for the blind forces of nature, nothing moves in this world which is not Greek in origin. Our Founding Fathers modeled our own system of democratic government on the basic principles of democracy of ancient Greece, and over 3-million Greek-Americans today continue to make valuable contributions to all aspects of American life. This resolution, in commemorating Greek Independence Day, also commemorates the close and enduring ties between our two nations. Long may they flourish.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1266. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1787. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to repeal the saccharin notice requirement.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

At 2:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence Senate:

H.J. Res. 165. Joint resolution making further appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-503. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

##### "JOINT RESOLUTION

"Whereas, the federal budget allocates less heating assistance for low-income homeowners than provided in previous years; and  
"Whereas, food stamp assistance under certain circumstances is linked to heating assistance; and

"Whereas, the significant reduction in heating assistance to 54,000 households in Maine, 12,000 of which involve subsidized housing and 7,000 of this 12,000 involve elderly households, will have a severe impact on Maine people, especially those receiving food stamps; and

"Whereas, cuts to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program are concurrent with cutbacks in the prescription drug program, increases in Medicare premiums and the loss of food stamps. These cuts will be especially hard felt by Maine seniors and the disabled community who rely on these programs in their day-to-day existence; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we, your Memorialists, respectfully recommend and urge the Congress of the United States to change current federal policy to allow persons who meet the eligibility requirements for food stamps but who do not receive heating assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program to receive food stamps in the same amount as they would have received had