will be grounded forever, dismissed from the Air Force and could even spend time in prison.

I call attention to this particular case because I believe it speaks to the highly publicized gender schizophrenia we are witnessing as the military grapples with women's role in our Armed Forces. On one hand, women have had a traditional, but non-expanding role in the military. On the other hand, we are shocked by what appears to be a pervasive resistance to women in the ranks, and the scandals that bear the most extreme illustration of this behavior and mindset. Put differently, assimilation to the military's rules of conduct is separate and distinct from assimilation of the military's culture.

The Armed Forces are institutions premised on order and command, governed rigidly by rules, written and implied; by codes, some memorized and some unspoken. In some instances however, the strict application of military codes appears to suspend reasonable judgment about the seriousness of the offense committed.

In this case, clearly, the punishment does not appear to fit the crime. As Lieutenant Flinn says, ''I fell in love with the wrong man.'' For this offense, which she committed unknowingly because Mr. Zigo lied about being legally separated from his wife, her Air Force career is slated to come to an ignoble end.

Lets not forget that of those 140 Navy officers involved in Tailhook, none were court-martialed.

It is difficult for me as an officer who served for more than 20 years as an Air Force judge advocate, to imagine that no other officer at Minot Air Force Base has committed the offense of which Lieutenant Flinn stands accused.

Wisdom and good judgment seem clearly to demand a dismissal of the criminal charges against Lieutenant Flinn and the substitution of nonjudicial or informal sanctions. I trust that the Air Force will promptly see the wisdom of this suggestion.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes as if in morning business.

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

FCC RULING

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, this morning the Federal Communications Commission made its ruling on implementation of the Universal Services Fund. They passed it by a 4-to-0 vote supporting the findings of the Federal-State joint board. This decision by them has opened the door to affordable Internet access for schools, libraries, and hospitals throughout this country.

I want to congratulate Commissioner Hundt and his colleagues on the Commission for their leadership and their commitment to putting technology to work in our schools and in our communities.

I also want to congratulate my colleagues, Senator SNOWE, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator Exon, and Senator KERREY, especially, for their leadership in proposing the Universal Services discount as a provision in the Telecommunications Act which we passed last year.

Their hard work on behalf of education technology was critical in getting us to this point.

This Universal Services Fund will provide telecommunications discounts of between 20 and 90 percent, depending in part on the income levels of families in the particular school communities.

I have done some back-of-the-envelope calculations about my State, and, as far as I can determine, the FCC's decision could mean a discount of more than 70 percent for many New Mexico schools.

Education technology is important to my State. We have all seen how it can allow even the smallest or most isolated school across the State to develop a level playing field with larger school districts and, in fact, with wealthier States.

In a cost-effective manner, education technology can provide advanced courses and access to amazing amounts of information for all of our students.

That is why I am very proud. In 1994, we passed an act that I proposed entitled ''Technology in Education Act.'' That act will provide $200 million to America's schools for purchase of advanced technology. It has brought $1.7 million to my home State of New Mexico this year alone.

I support the President's request in his budget to increase the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund from $200 million this year to $425 million next year.

The 1994 Technology in Education Act also created the Regional Technology in Education Consortia, these consortia providing schools and school districts with the technical assistance that they need to be full participants in this information age.

This technical assistance will be more needed than ever now that the telecommunications costs will be less of an obstacle to schools seeking connections to the Internet.

Our country has also made some progress in raising the awareness of the need for high academic standards. I serve on the National Education Goals Panel, and, as such, I have supported the effort to build a nation of learners, and education technology is an important part of doing that.

One of the things that we have to do a better job of clearly is training teachers to be comfortable with this new technology. I believe we need to pursue legislation on this area this Congress. I hope to have a part in that.

In my view, the educational technology movement will change the way people teach and learn from now on.

Distance learning is more than delivering instruction any time and anywhere, although that is an important part of what is involved. It is also about giving teachers the resources that they need to be effective as learning coaches. It is about empowering students to explore and learn in ways that are best for them as individuals.

Today's FCC ruling is an important step forward. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to help ensure that our teachers and schoolchildren have the best technology that we can offer as we prepare them for the 21st century.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LIEBERMAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 83 AND AMENDMENT NO. 177

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in opposition to amendment No. 83 offered by the Senator from Wisconsin to S. 672, the underlying bill. I gather that Senator FEINGOLD's amendment has been second-degreed by the Senator from Texas with amendment No. 177.

In brief, the underlying amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill would prohibit the use of funds for ground deployment in Bosnia after September 30 of this year, 1997. The second-degree amendment changes the date of September 30, 1997, to June 30, 1998.

Mr. President, after all the debate and discussion here on the floor of this Senate for the last 6 years, really after all of the diplomatic effort by our Government and other governments in Europe and throughout the world regarding the conflict in Bosnia, after all of the blood that has been spilled in Bosnia with hundreds of thousands of people displaced and killed, and after the heroic service of the American soldiers that have been part of IFOR and SFOR, joined with soldiers of other countries in separating the warring parties in the former Yugoslavia and stopping the conflict and beginning the peaceful reconstruction of that land, it is fundamentally inconceivable to me that the Senate here on an amendment to this supplemental appropriations bill would direct the military to pull out of this conflict, to walk away, in my opinion, before the job is done, to do something that is not in the best traditions of American diplomacy, let alone the American military.

So, Mr. President, I strongly oppose these two amendments.

If I may, I would like to take just a few moments to recall with my colleagues some of what has happened in this Chamber, in the former Yugoslavia, and in the capitals of the world