

stood at \$5,372,436,799,991.80. (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-two billion, four hundred thirty-six million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-one dollars and eighty cents)

One year ago, July 30, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,183,983,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred eighty-three billion, nine hundred eighty-three million)

Five years ago, July 30, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,999,118,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred ninety-nine billion, one hundred eighteen million)

Ten years ago, July 30, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,304,965,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred four billion, nine hundred sixty-five million)

Fifteen years ago, July 30, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,089,616,000,000 (One trillion, eighty-nine billion, six hundred sixteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,282,820,799,991.80 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-two billion, eight hundred twenty million, seven hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred ninety-one dollars and eighty cents) during the past 15 years.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SGT. GARY HURT ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I would like to encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sgt. Gary Hurt as he retires on August 31, 1997, from 28 years of service to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. I add my personal appreciation and best wishes to those of Gary's many friends and colleagues.

There are few careers more noble than those spent in public service. Gary's 18 years in the Governor's Security Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol have meant a great deal to the people he has served. I add a special word of thanks to Gary for his dedicated service to me during my two terms as Governor of Missouri.

During my tenure as Governor, Gary and I traveled from one end of the State to the other, as well as around the country. Gary always represented the State of Missouri and the Missouri Highway Patrol with dignity, integrity, and professionalism. His commitment to detail put me at ease regardless of travel and event circumstances. I am grateful to Gary and I would like to publicly thank him for the outstanding service he graciously provided my family and me while I served as Governor of Missouri.

I wish Gary and his wife, Carol, much happiness as they begin a new chapter in their lives. May God richly bless them both.

CONCERN ABOUT RELAXATION OF CROSS-OWNERSHIP RULES

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, the balanced budget agreement passed by the Senate today was an extraordinary

and historical accomplishment. The American people can be proud that Congress took bipartisan action to provide not only the first balanced budget in a generation but also tax relief to working families, health care for uninsured children, financial relief for those seeking a college education and the promise of long-term solvency for Medicare.

In another historic yet less worthy act, the conferees quietly included in the bill a provision to, for the first time, relax the cross-ownership rules that prevent television stations or newspapers from owning a television station within the same city. The FCC has rightly enacted and enforced cross-ownership prohibitions for 50 years to ensure diversity of opinion and views on our local airwaves.

But the provision in the reconciliation bill would allow newspaper owners and broadcasters to bid on licenses within the same market during the 2002 auction of analog broadcast signals in markets with populations greater than 400,000. These signals will be made available as the current analog stations convert to digital transmission.

This action could have a seriously detrimental effect on the diversity of the current mosaic of broadcast entities. Broadcast television remains the most prolific form of local broadcast news and it is critical that this diversity is continued. Indeed, I am deeply concerned by the effect that this provision could have on the FCC's current review of cross-ownership rules.

Congress directed the FCC to review cross-ownership rules in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the results of this review are pending. While I believe Congress should revisit the reconciliation relaxation provision on its own merits and free from the rush toward passage of the agreement, it is also critical that the FCC, during its own review of cross-ownership, does not interpret passage of this provision as unobjectionable Congressional support for repeal or relaxation of cross-ownership rules.

Indeed, it is important to note that this provision is intended to provide cross-ownership only when there is a doubling of broadcast outlets within a particular market and only in markets of populations greater than 400,000. If Congress had wanted to take further action, it would have done so and therefore, the FCC should not.

Our broadcast spectrum is one of our Nation's most valuable assets and one of the most powerful yet limited resource for the dissemination of ideas and free expression. It is critical that Congress work to protect rather than dilute this resource and I will fight for the integrity of our airwaves as Congress continues to address these issues.

TERRORIST BOMBING IN JERUSALEM

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with the distin-

guished chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and many others, as an original cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 46.

Yesterday two suicide terrorist bombers blew themselves up in the Mahane Yehuda open-air marketplace in the center of Jerusalem. These bombs were clearly timed to do the maximum possible damage. They exploded seconds apart at about 1 p.m. local time, at the height of the lunch-time shopping hour. Initial reports indicate that at least 18 people were killed and over 100 were injured.

This was a despicable, bloodthirsty act, which all of us stand and condemn in one voice. It is not yet known exactly who perpetrated the bombing, but it bears great similarity to attacks conducted in the past by the Palestinian extremist groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Whoever bears guilt for this terrible crime is beneath contempt.

We join Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Weizman, and the Israeli people in mourning those who were murdered yesterday, and we offer our deepest condolences to their families. To the wounded, we offer our prayers and hopes for their full recovery.

Sadly, Israelis have become all too familiar with having their daily routines shattered by the sudden bloodshed and carnage of bombings in seemingly ordinary places—on a bus, in a marketplace, in park or a cafe. On top of all the other tragic aspects of these bombings, the way Israelis are forced to live with the knowledge that their world could be blown apart at any instant is a peculiar kind of torture.

President Clinton was exactly right when he said yesterday morning that this bomb was aimed not only at innocent Israeli civilians, but also at all those in the Middle East who genuinely desire peace. And I fear that this bombing, because of its timing and location, could be as damaging to prospects for peace as any that we have seen.

The timing could hardly have been worse. The President's Special Middle East Coordinator, Dennis Ross, was about to travel to Israel to try to breathe new life into the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which have been suspended for many months, but which were just beginning to show signs of resuming. In fact, there is good reason to believe that this attack was timed specifically to disrupt Mr. Ross's trip and the impending resumption of the peace talks. Now it may be weeks or months before these talks can resume and be productive. For the extremists, the greatest danger is that the talks could make progress, and they are obviously willing to do anything to prevent it.

This bombing also has ramifications for our work. On August 12, the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act will expire. This act provided the legislative framework for U.S. involvement in the peace process by giving the President the authority to provide assistance to the Palestinian Authority, allow the