

I apologize, albeit much too late, to my primary opponent who stood in opposition to the line-item veto. And this was a matter of difference between the two of us in the primary. I think I made some progress because as we got near the vote he recanted and came to my side so as to try to get the people who were in favor of a line-item veto to vote for him instead of me.

But I believe the arguments that have been repeated here, the information given here from the decision of the judge, are sufficiently persuasive that I need to make this apology and this recanting of a previous position. While I may not be with my two colleagues on many other matters, I try to be with them on constitutional matters.

It is on this basis that I opposed a constitutional amendment regarding flag burning. That puts me at odds with my senior colleague from Utah, which always distresses me. It is for this purpose that I oppose McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform because I think it is unconstitutional. I believe the courts have ruled in similar cases that the guts of the McCain-Feingold bill is in fact an intrusion on the first amendment.

But I think there is no more important function that we have in this Chamber, whatever our disagreements on the specifics, than the function of protecting the Constitution against the whims of the hour.

And so I thank Senator BYRD and Senator MOYNIHAN for their scholarship and for their leadership on this issue, and I, as one Senator at least on the other side of the issue, throw in the towel, eat a little crow, and declare my willingness to escape from a previous position.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield very briefly?

Mr. BENNETT. I am happy to yield.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator for his remarks.

Diogenes walked the streets of Athens in broad daylight with his lighted lantern. He was asked why. He answered, "I am looking for a man." Plato, when visiting Sicily, was asked by Hiero, the tyrannical head of the Government, why he came to Sicily. He said, "I am seeking an honest man."

May I say, Mr. President, today I have found an honest man—the distinguished Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the Senator from West Virginia. There could be no higher tribute. I am grateful to him.

Mr. MOYNIHAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. May I add, not only honest but a courageous man. In some 21 years on the Senate floor I have not heard a more refreshing and inspiring statement. It is not surprising coming from the Senator from Utah, but it is all the more amazing. There are few places in this world today where such a statement could be made and praised.

It is a tribute to you, sir; also a tribute to the U.S. Army, I believe. But we

will not get into that. I thank you for your remarks, sir.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the senior Senator from New York. Both of my senior friends are far too lavish in their praise, but I will accept it anyway in the spirit of the moment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes, and further that Senator DORGAN have the 1 hour that has been allotted to him following at the end of my 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Hearing none, without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWBACK. Thank you, Mr. President.

RUSSIAN TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY TO ROGUE NATIONS

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, today's article from today's Washington Post is yet more indication, unfortunately, of the bad faith with which Russia has been dealing with us on the transfer of sensitive technology to rogue nations, particularly, dual use and missile technology.

I am on the Foreign Affairs Committee and chair the Middle East Subcommittee. And something that has been very troubling to me is the introduction into the Middle East, particularly into Iran and into Iraq, of technology that can be used for missile development, for use of the delivery of weapons of mass destruction, even the development of weapons of mass destruction like biological warfare, biological and chemical warfare weapons.

Evidence was in the Washington Post, again, today, that once again—not just the first time—but once again Russian companies, with links to the Government, were involved in violating the U.N. authorized embargo on sales to Iraq of dual-use equipment. And this is outrageous. And it is preposterous that they would be doing it.

The transfer to Iraq—which is a rogue nation, with a leader who does not operate under internationally recognized civilized codes—of any dual-use technology is unacceptable. And yet once again today we have another example.

The transfer of equipment, such as the fermentation equipment, which was alluded to today, which can be used to develop biological weapons, and the possible collusion with the Iraqis against UNSCOM to hide technology and weapons, is proof of a cynical bad faith which is untenable. If this information is true—and I am told it is well grounded—the Russians are making a mockery of a very serious issue, and, more importantly, they are putting U.S. forces at increased risk.

This type of behavior has immense implications for a policy towards Iran as well and the administration's efforts to curb these sales of equipment that can be used to deliver or to develop

weapons of mass destruction. This cynicism should not be rewarded.

I understand that we have been holding up Senate bill 1311, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act, in deference to the Russians to give them time to prove their good faith and in deference to the Vice President's meeting with them in March. In view of the latest developments and this information, I believe such deference is misplaced. I request that Senate bill 1311 be moved up on the Senate calendar. I will make that request known to the leadership and ask that they proceed forward because this "good faith" that we are offering has obviously been received in a way of making bad-faith steps by the Russians and is further proof today this cannot be allowed to continue. Every day it is allowed to continue, more and more U.S. lives are at risk. It cannot be allowed to continue.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 10 minutes as in morning business. I do that with the agreement of the Senator from North Dakota.

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

SITUATION IN IRAQ

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the Secretaries of Defense and State have been pursuing political support, both in the Congress and among our allies, for the use of military force against Iraq.

I come to the floor today to express my support for a military strike against Iraq and to urge our colleagues and our allies to join us in supporting our troops and our Commander-in-Chief. The unfortunate impasse which has precluded a full and conclusive Senate debate on a formal resolution of support should not be misconstrued. Clearly, when and if the time comes, an overwhelming majority in this body will support decisive action to end the threat to our security that Iraq continues to pose. Saddam Hussein should have no doubt about that.

We in government are frequently accused of demonizing our enemies in order to garner popular support here at home for the kind of actions we are currently contemplating with regard to Iraq. President Bush was accused of doing precisely that during Operation Desert Shield. There is a considerable wealth of information pertaining to Saddam Hussein's years in power, though, that clearly indicates that we are dealing with as ruthless and brutal a dictator as exists anywhere in the world today. That is not demonizing an individual; it is accurately describing a man with the moral and ethical foundation required to employ chemical weapons against his own population; to assassinate any and all political rivals; to have his own sons-in-law executed; to massacre Kurdish populations in the north and Shiite communities in the south; to invade Kuwait and impose a