

was the force of NATO air power able to inflict heavy damage in the field. Prior to that, the results of our bombing on Serb military capacity were frustratingly meager. I find it interesting that the KLA offensive was neither foreseen in advance, nor now, in our jubilant mood, widely reported after the fact. Those who claim that the bombing worked all by itself need to take a second look at what really happened.

Next, where are we now? The refugees are still not back in their homes, in their villages. Their homes are still not rebuilt. Their economy, which will permit them to feed themselves, is still in shambles. Further, the Kosovar Serbs, as opposed to the Kosovar Albanians, are now in fear of their lives, and a new flood of refugees is flowing north. Their numbers are far fewer than those of the returnees, but the Serbian refugees entering that part of Yugoslavia will swell the ranks of the still-unsettled refugees that came there from Bosnia, where any form of long-term peace is still elusive. The Yugoslav economy—including neighboring countries such as Romania, is in shambles in no small part because of our attacks on the infrastructure in and around Belgrade.

Winter comes early in the Balkans and the prospects of widespread suffering remains high. So what do we still have to do? Our first priority should be the humanitarian relief required to alleviate the suffering in both parts of Yugoslavia, Serbia as well as Kosovo. Hand in hand should be efforts to repair the damage the bombing has done so that the economic activity that is the only hope for self-sufficiency can begin. But our hardest challenge is to keep the killing from breaking out again on both sides. It may be easy for some to say that the Serbs deserve whatever revenge the Kosovar Albanians will mete out, and that they only get what they asked for simply by being Serbs.

That is the attitude held by most ethnic groups in the region that got us into this mess in the first place. It should be repugnant to all Americans. All of them should celebrate the ethnic diversity from which each one of us comes.

The biggest long-term burden NATO's occupying force bears is the responsibility to see that no new round of ethnic hatred and retaliation takes place, whoever initiates it and whatever its supposed justification.

In sum, this is the time to be glad, because, with an unexpected and strong assist from the Kosovar Liberation Army, we made a deal whereby the bombing has been stopped and the rebuilding can start. It is not a time to cry, "Hurrah, we won," and then walk away from the immense humanitarian tragedy we were unable to prevent and to which in some degree our bombing contributed.

Above all, it is not a time for us to think there are any easy answers or

short-term solutions or that the antagonisms of the region are easily divided into good guys and bad guys. Americans must recognize that we are in Kosovo for a very long haul now and working against very long odds if we are ever going to help the various factions achieve any hope of living peacefully side by side. In our time of congratulations, let us recognize that we are only "at the end of the beginning."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to join a bipartisan chorus of Senators who have requested we take up action on Senate bill S. 331, the Work Incentives Improvement Act.

As my colleagues know, this legislation would remove a significant barrier that individuals with disabilities face when they are trying to return to the workforce. The significant barrier is continued access to health care if they leave SSDI or SSI programs. Currently, individuals with disabilities who are eligible for Social Security disability insurance, SSDI, or supplemental security income, SSI, face the dilemma of losing their Medicare and Medicaid health benefits simply because they return to work.

This is regrettable. According to surveys, about three-quarters of individuals with disabilities in the United States who enroll in SSI or SSDI want to work. Sadly, less than one-half of 1 percent are actually able to make the transition because—this is a major reason—they are afraid once they lose their health care they will be unable to support themselves. Whatever they earn by working they lose by forfeiting their health care.

We can correct this situation by simply extending eligibility to Medicare and Medicaid for these individuals. We can provide them a helping hand to move from unemployment to contributing to our economy and to our society.

With the Americans With Disabilities Act, we passed legislation to combat discrimination and remove physical barriers from the workplace. Now we have a chance to lift a health care roadblock which is stopping many people from moving from a place of unemployment to one in which they are fully participating in our economy.

In my home State of Rhode Island, there are more than 40,000 individuals with disabilities who are eligible for SSI or SSDI. These individuals could benefit immediately from this work in-

centives bill. Across the country, there are about 9.5 million people who are similarly situated who could benefit from this legislation.

In addition to the simple argument about fairness and giving everyone the chance to fully use their talents to benefit not only themselves but their community, there is another compelling reason. We are all familiar with the solvency crisis with respect to Social Security but what is less familiar is that with respect to our disability insurance fund—which is part of Social Security—there is also a crisis. Indeed, while the old age and survivors portion of Social Security will be able to pay full benefits until the year 2036, the disability insurance portion becomes insolvent 16 years earlier, in 2020.

If we help disabled workers return to the workforce, we will, in effect, also be reducing the cash payments out of this disability insurance fund which will give it longer solvency, which will be a way to address a problem that is lurking just over the horizon in the year 2020.

For economic reasons, as well as our commitment to the basic ideal of allowing Americans to use all of their talents, this legislation makes a great deal of sense.

Now, we have seen this legislation proposed under the able leadership of Senator JEFFORDS and Senator KENNEDY. This Work Incentives Improvement Act was nearly adopted at the end of last Congress because of their effort. I was a very proud cosponsor of that version. This year, Senators ROTH and MOYNIHAN have also stepped up to take major leadership roles. Indeed, we have more than 70 cosponsors. This is a piece of legislation that is bipartisan, with strong support in both caucuses. Because of this support, because of the efforts of the leadership of Senator ROTH and Senator MOYNIHAN, this bill passed the Finance Committee on March 4, 1999, but we have been waiting for several months to bring it to the floor, to get it passed, and to give disabled Americans a chance at better employment.

In March, we were able to take another bill with bipartisan support, the Ed-Flex bill, and work through the problems. The reason we were able to do that was we decided to act, we decided not to let legislation be bottled up, but to move it to this floor, and from this floor to the President for his signature.

We have today with respect to this disability legislation twice the inherent support in terms of numbers of Senators, and it also has grassroots support with more than 100 groups endorsing this bill. This support runs the gamut from advocacy groups for disabled Americans all the way to the insurance industry. With this type of support, both within this Chamber and across the country, we should be able to move this just as we moved the Ed-Flex legislation a few months ago.

Also, I was pleased to note that in a May 28 edition of the Washington Post,

the majority leader indicated he was satisfied with the status of this bill and ready to move to the floor. It is my hope we can adopt this legislation, that we can bring it here, that we can debate it, and we can move it forward. If we do so, we will be providing an opportunity for disabled Americans all across this country to use their talents for their own benefit and to contribute to the communities and to this Nation. That, I think, is the essence of why we are here—for wise legislative policies that allow Americans to use their talents to benefit themselves and this country.

I hope we adopt this very quickly. That means, of course, we schedule this legislation; that we will, in fact, bring to the floor the Work Incentives Improvement Act for a vote. If we do so, we will be doing the work we were sent here to do by our constituents.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. DOMENICI. Senator REID is on his way.

Mr. President and fellow Senators, the ranking member and I have decided that it won't do us any good to remain any longer on the energy and water appropriations bill, because we are now in the process of working out a number of amendments and apparently there is one that may have to be voted on; we just got it, and participants would not be ready this evening in any event. Everyone understood that they needed some time at the earliest convenience tomorrow, or when we can get back on the bill.

Let me say to the Senator from Nevada, the ranking member, we are ready to get off the bill tonight and wait our turn as early as possible in the process tomorrow. We are working on a number of amendments. There is probably one that is going to require a vote tomorrow. But they won't be ready this evening in any event. We knew that.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I only say to my friend, the manager of this bill, that the amendments are now in. We, together with our staff, have worked very hard to see what we can do to accept amendments. Some of them are just not acceptable. We have tried every way possible. But some of them are not authorized, and there are various other reasons we can't accept a number of the amendments. I hope peo-

ple will understand that some of these we can't accept. There may be votes required on them.

Frankly, with all the work we have done on the bill, I suggest it would be very hard to get some of these amendments agreed to that we haven't been able to work out with their staff, our staff, and the two managers of the bill.

We have worked very hard on this for the last couple of weeks. I hope that, with the two leaders, we can find some time so we can wrap this up. I think we can do it in a couple of hours at the most.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to morning business with statements allowed by each Senator for up to 5 minutes.

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

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL DENNIS J. REIMER

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service, sacrifices, and numerous contributions to the security of our nation that United States Army Chief of Staff, General Dennis J. Reimer has made throughout his career as a soldier and a leader.

As have many of our nation's greatest warriors, General Reimer began his Army career as a Cadet at the United States Military Academy. Leaving his hometown of Medford, Oklahoma and arriving on the banks of the Hudson River on what must certainly have been a hot day in July of 1958, I suspect that the last thought that crossed the mind of a young Dennis Reimer was that he would one day hold the highest job a soldier in the United States Army can hold. Yet that is just what destiny had in store for this tall, unassuming, and plain speaking westerner.

In 1962, when Dennis Reimer graduated from West Point and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery, we were well into the "Cold War", the French had lost their war in Indochina, and the United States had not yet established a large military presence in South Vietnam. As events unfolded and a policy to contain communism was established, it was not long before we did begin to commit troops to Southeast Asia. Among the hundreds of thousands of soldiers to eventually serve in Vietnam was Dennis Reimer, who spent two combat tours in Vietnam, one as an advisor to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the second as an executive officer for an artillery battalion in the 9th Infantry Division. The American military experience in Vietnam unquestionably influenced the professional and personal outlooks of anyone who served in that theater, and the lessons learned in Vietnam would serve Dennis Reimer, the Army, and that nation well in the following years.

One can assess the career of a soldier very quickly by looking at his or her uniform, and General Reimer's "Class A's" reveal that he is a soldier's soldier, someone who never shied away from a challenge, and an officer who believed in leading by example. He wears the coveted "Ranger" tab on his left shoulder, a mark of a man who has proven himself to be a tough, resourceful, and diligent soldier. The 9th Infantry Division patch on his right shoulder tells people he went to war with this unit. The Combat Infantryman's Badge he wears on his left chest indicates that he participated in combat operations; the Purple Heart that he was wounded in action; and, the Bronze Star with "V" for Valor Device and the Distinguished Flying Cross both stand as testament to the fact that he is a hero. He has also earned some of the nation's most respected decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, and five additional Bronze Stars.

It has been a long road that Dennis Reimer has traveled from West Point's Trophy Point where he entered the Corps of Cadets, to the "E" Ring of the Pentagon where he now commands every single soldier in the United States Army. His journey has taken him to many different assignments in many different places, all of which helped to prepare him for his job as Chief of Staff of the Army. In the field, he served as a commander at the company, battalion, and division levels; and, he was the Chief of Staff, Combined Field Army and Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Training, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command. His assignments to the Pentagon were also invaluable as he benefitted from firsthand exposure to how the Department of the Army works as an institution. Clearly he has drawn on his experiences as the aide-de-camp to Chief of Staff of the Army General Creighton Abrams, and he no doubt learned many lessons at the side of this impressive soldier and mentor. In short, General Dennis Reimer was probably one of the best prepared individuals to have served as Chief of Staff of the Army and the legacy he leaves is one that is impressive and noteworthy.

The past four-years have been busy ones for General Reimer as he discharged his duties as the Army's head soldier and worked to represent the interests of his people and service in the halls of Congress. During his watch, he has helped to define just what the post-Cold War Army will look like, what its missions will be, and how it will fight and win on the battlefields of the future. General Reimer has been a tireless advocate for the modernization of the Army by championing new weapons systems that will continue to give our troops the tactical and technological advantage they require to overwhelm any and all potential enemies. An expert in efficiencies, he has dedicated