

intervention through increased efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

I would be remiss did I not close by commending the commanders from SACEUR down the chain of command, our forces in the theatre and those back home who supported them so splendidly. They all performed extremely well and you have every reason to be proud of them and your great nation's contribution.

Allow me to close by saying that I was proud to serve this unique Alliance as the Chairman of the Military Committee in such a crucial time and I felt privileged to serve with a man whose superb contribution was crucial for our common success, Javier Solana. This brings me to my final point which we should never forget: It was the cohesion of our 19 nations which brought about success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

HONORING GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague for his remarks on the bankruptcy bill.

I think one thing—while it is not necessarily appropriate to recognize on the bankruptcy bill—we should recognize is the inability of our Federal Government to honor the sanctity of contractual commitments. I can think off-hand of the agreement that was made by the Federal Government some two decades ago to take the high-level nuclear waste by the year 1998. The rate-payers paid something in the area of \$15 billion into that fund for the Federal Government to meet its contractual obligation. The pending lawsuits are somewhere between \$40 billion and \$80 billion. Obviously, the Federal Government doesn't set a very good example.

This is not necessarily apropos to bankruptcy, but it is apropos to the theory that we pay our bills, that we honor the sanctity of our contracts. The old saying is, "Charity begins at home." The Government should set the example.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for approximately 30 minutes.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

TRADE AND FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, with the recent passage of a Senate Finance Committee trade package aimed at liberalizing trade with African and Caribbean countries, and providing Trade Adjustment Assistance for American workers who need help transitioning into different jobs, I thought it an appropriate time to come to the floor of the Senate to discuss the insidious propaganda campaign the Clinton Administration is orchestrating over the phoney charges of "isolationism" he has leveled at Congress.

In some ways, I am reluctant to get into this name-calling argument. As I told my six children as they faced the normal school yard taunts, you shouldn't dignify the name caller with a response. Something like the old adage, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me."

The difference between Washington and the school yard, however, is that it seems that if you repeat a lie long enough, and in enough places, the media will parrot it out to the country and around the world as if it were true. And that is very, very serious for two reasons.

First, it distorts the political process and deceives the American public. More importantly, it sends a false and dangerous signal to the enemies of America that their dream of disengaging America from world leadership may, in fact, be happening. Nothing could be further from the truth, but when the President of the United States, and his flunkies, says it, terrorists around the world applaud.

Certainly there are Republicans, Democrats, Reform Party members and independents who proudly wear the isolationist label, but to try and smear Congress with that label is reprehensible.

So I want to look at what actions the Clinton Administration calls isolationist, and to separate fact from fiction.

Two weeks ago, National Security Advisor Sandy Berger gave a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations decrying as "isolationist" and "defeatist" such actions as the Senate's refusal to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty ("CTBT") and, as Mr. Berger characterized it, a Congress "reluctant to support the Climate Change Treaty."

Mr. President, it should not even pass the straight face test to label Senators such as RICHARD LUGAR and CHUCK HAGEL, among others, as isolationists just because we voted against a treaty that we did not think would preserve our national security in the years and decades ahead.

Would Sandy Berger have the audacity to call former Secretary of State and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Henry Kissinger an isolationist because he was "not persuaded that the proposed treaty would inhibit nuclear proliferation" and therefore recommended voting against the treaty?

Does Berger's isolationist tag also apply to six former Secretaries of Defense—James Schlesinger, Dick Cheney, Frank Carlucci, Caspar Weinberger, Donald Rumsfeld and Melvin Laird because they wrote the Senate leadership and stated:

We believe . . . a permanent, zero-yield Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty incompatible with the Nation's international commitments and vital security interests and believe it does not deserve the Senate's advice and consent.

Mr. President, the Senate rejected a flawed treaty; the fault lies not with

so-called isolationists in Congress, but with the appeasers and former "nuclear freeze" people who are now in the Clinton Administration and negotiated this treaty which was not in America's national security interest.

As to the Climate Change Treaty, Congress is not reluctant to consider the Treaty. In fact, we have been asking this President to send the Treaty up, but he refuses. And he refuses because 95 Senators expressed the strong sense of the Senate that the Kyoto protocol contain commitments from developing countries to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Of course, this has not happened. This is not an isolationist fear of technological change. This is a realistic assessment of how you accomplish your goals.

On Monday, USTR Barshefsky also took up the isolationism call. At a speech to the foreign press describing the U.S. agenda for the upcoming WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle, Ambassador Barshefsky said that isolationists "at times believe that a growing economy and a clean environment cannot coexist."

Mr. President, I hope the Ambassador does not mean to imply that simply because Congress has not signed off on loading up trade agreements with the baggage of the extreme environmentalist agenda that we are isolationists?

In fact, I wonder if this cry of isolationism is not simply to divert attention from the failures of this Administration to pursue trade opening measures in the face of domestic pressure from Unions?

If expanding trade is so important to the President, he could have welcomed the April 8 offer by the Chinese Premier to make extraordinary concessions to bring China into the World Trade Organization.

But he did not.

If expanding trade is so important to the President, he could have directed his Administration to work with the Finance Committee to craft a compromise on fast track trade negotiating authority that would address the legitimate concerns of those who do not want to see labor and environment slogans used as smoke screens for protectionist measures.

But he did not lift a finger to support fast track for fear of offending his protectionist political supporters in organized labor.

So Mr. President, I don't think President Clinton should have sent his National Security Advisor or his USTR out to falsely label my party as the one turning its back on the world.

This is not to say that there are not some countries who should receive a cold shoulder rather than a warm embrace. I do not support aiding and comforting our enemies—like Iraq and North Korea. This is not about a choice between isolationism or engagement. This is about what form of engagement will bring the desired results.