

problem is, nor does it tell us what the FDA is doing and what the manufacturer is doing to resolve this problem.

We need some answers from the FDA. This is something that cannot wait 2 weeks or 1 month or 6 months. This problem has to be resolved over the next few days. It is critical for the safety of these newborn children.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

TAX RELIEF

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, we have been spending all of our time this week on taxes. I am delighted the tax bill has passed. Certainly there are different views on how to do it. There will always be different views when one raises the question of taxes or spending. There are different points of view. Much has to do with the priorities of people. Much has to do with the philosophy of what one thinks the appropriate role of the Federal Government is, what kinds of programs should be funded by the Federal Government. Those are the broad issues.

I was very pleased when we did follow through, and the House, of course, passed tax relief in the amount of approximately \$1.6 trillion, which is what the President requested. The bill that passed the Senate is something less than that. It is still a huge amount of money. Most of us cannot conceive what \$1.3 trillion is, but nevertheless it is very close to the same amount and I think deals with the same principles that are so important.

Taxes are one of the highest priorities for this Congress and, indeed, should be. Taxes are high priorities for this Congress because of the fairness question. It is a question of adequately funding appropriate programs.

It is a high priority for the American people for much the same reason in that no one wants to pay more taxes than they have to, but most of us are willing to pay taxes. It is necessary to do that. Fairness is an issue. This is one of the President's first priorities.

Interestingly enough, this and education are the two highest priorities, and soon we deal with the energy issue. Those are the three things that have been talked about the most in the last several months, so it is appropriate this Congress has focused on and made progress in those areas.

The Senate will be going to conference with the House, and hopefully we will have it down to the President perhaps before this week is over. That is an excellent performance.

On the tax bill we went through 50-some votes on amendments, which gave everybody a good opportunity to talk about the different issues. Yet the bill survived pretty much as it was reported out of committee. I congratulate the committee and the leaders.

There are a number of principles involved. We talk about amount always but limited Government is part of it. One of the reasons for a return of taxes is because the citizens, the American

people have paid more taxes than are necessary, and we have a surplus. Clearly, it should go back to the people who paid it.

Quite frankly, my experience is if we have a surplus for very long, we will find a way to spend it even though it may not be one of the highest priorities. The principles of limited Government are very much a part of what we do.

There are questions as to, when one projects out 10 years, how close the projections will come to the actual surpluses. I think any economic projection for 10 years has some variability in it. However, I believe all the professionals who have made this projection indicate it is a very modest projection and, indeed, it is very likely the surpluses will, in fact, even be higher.

It is a time, too, when it is necessary to stimulate the economy. This is one of the ways the economy is stimulated—by letting people spend more of their own money. It is true it takes a while for all of this to kick in, but there will be some immediate impact, and that is vital to the economy.

Fairness in the Tax Code is very important, and we have a hard time with fairness in the Tax Code. This bill provides more fairness in the marriage penalty where two single people who earn a certain amount of money marry, and their tax on the same amount of money is increased. That is a fairness issue and needs to be changed.

It is something we need to do. We talk a lot about the simplicity of the Tax Code.

We didn't do much about that. We are always wanting to give tax credits, so the Tax Code keeps getting larger.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

AGAINST WITHDRAWAL FROM BOSNIA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to take strong issue with remarks by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld as summarized in the Washington Post on May 18 and subsequently reproduced in their entirety on the paper's website, that he is "pushing" to pull U.S. troops out of Bosnia. According to Secretary Rumsfeld, "the military job [in Bosnia] was done three or four years ago."

I firmly believe that Secretary Rumsfeld's analysis of the situation in Bosnia is incorrect, and that his policy prescription would be seriously detrimental to the national security interests of the United States.

First, let me turn to Mr. Rumsfeld's statement that the "military job was done three or four years ago." It is true that IFOR, and then SFOR, successfully separated the largely exhausted warring parties without much difficulty. But to assert that this separation spelled the end of our troops' mission is to define "military" in such a narrow way so as to make it nearly meaningless in the Balkan context.

Putting it in other terms, Secretary Rumsfeld seems to belong to the school

that begins talking about so-called "exit strategies" as soon as troops are committed. Of course we need an "exit strategy," and we have had one. The Clinton Administration early on outlined ten detailed benchmarks for Dayton implementation that need to be met before we can say "mission accomplished" and honorably withdraw. These are not secrets. The U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo hands out a list of the benchmarks to all visitors. I must assume that Secretary Rumsfeld is familiar with them, so it seems that he either believes they no longer apply, or that our troops no longer have anything to do with most aspects of Dayton implementation.

From Secretary Rumsfeld's published remarks, I get the impression that he sees anything short of actual combat or the separating of warring parties as inappropriate tasks for our soldiers. If he does, I disagree with him. In fact, his view strikes me as the old syndrome of "preparing to fight the last war." The last two so-called "Strategic Concepts" of NATO have made clear that the most likely security challenges of the twenty-first century will be ethnic and religious strife, transnational crime, terrorism and the like—rather than a frontal attack on the territory of alliance members.

The details bear examination. Little more than two years ago in this city, NATO celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. At that Washington Summit, NATO issued the latest version of its Strategic Concept. I would like to quote several parts of the Strategic Concept in order to show that we and our allies have clearly understood that the military's function is not bound in a narrow straightjacket.

The document, agreed upon by all nineteen NATO members on April 23 and 24, 1999, declares in Article 20 that "large-scale conventional aggression against the Alliance is highly unlikely." It goes on to say the following: "Ethnic and religious rivalries, territorial disputes, inadequate or failed efforts at reform, the abuse of human rights, and the dissolution of states can lead to local and even regional instability."

It then graphically outlines the possible ramifications of such developments: "The resulting tensions could lead to crises affecting Euro-Atlantic stability. . . [and] could affect the security of the Alliance by spilling over into neighboring countries, including NATO countries, or in other ways, and could also affect the security of other states."

Moreover, Article 25 of the 1999 Strategic Concept specifically states that "The Alliance is committed to a broad approach to security, which recognizes the importance of political, economic, social and environmental factors in addition to the indispensable defense dimension."

How can these factors be addressed? Article 29 mentions the "Alliance's ability to contribute to conflict prevention and crisis management