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Mr. BAKER. Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to at least thank the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee, and the distinguished ranking member for their service to the Senate.

We have handled a bill that may be the biggest revenue bill in terms of size and volume that we have ever handled.

We handled it as an amendment to another bill, and that is remarkable. We spent about 40 hours on it; 39 1/2 hours as of 4:42 when the rollcall began.

I do not have a good count on how many amendments were disposed of one way or the other. But by my preliminary count, it appears to go well over 100. That is a remarkable record.

I want to confess also that at 10 o'clock tonight when I said we were going to make an announcement on what we were going to do, I never dreamed we would finish this evening, or this morning.

I cannot recall how many times Senator Dole told me that they just had about an hour more to go—at least five or six times.

But I want to congratulate him for his perseverance because it was clearly the right thing to do. We are finished with this phase of this undertaking. There is much, much more to be done.

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the chairman of the committee (Mr. Dole) for the truly fantastic job he did in managing this very difficult and complex piece of legislation. I am confident that it will substantially reduce the deficit. He has a very substantial amount of tax reform in it. The Senate has passed it in the shortest time anyone hoped to pass it, according to everyone an opportunity to be heard.

He worked all of us very hard, but we were glad to do it because we wanted to conclude our business and hoped to be at places more joyous to all of us during the Easter recess.

I do not think in the 36 years I have been here I have seen a committee chairman more efficient, in better humor, and with more consideration to other Members of the Senate manage a major piece of legislation. It was a truly outstanding performance.

I believe all of us feel that having stayed in session as long as the Senate did, and worked as hard as it did, that the Senate was in a better humor on departure at 5 o'clock this morning than I have seen it on any similar occasion.

I think that is a credit to the distinguished manager of the bill (Mr. Dole). It is also a credit to the majority leader for the fine job he did, and to the minority leader for the fine job he did.

It shows that when people work together as a team they can pass a very important piece of legislation.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I appreciate the remarks of the majority leader and the remarks of the two managers of this legislation.

I think that any words of praise that I might offer concerning the work of the two managers, the skill that they demonstrated, would fall short. But, nevertheless, I think they are entitled to whatever words I might speak at this moment.

They are two very unique men. I would say, without any equivocation, no Senators in this body are more able or intelligent than these two men.

Bob Dole is a man who can poke fun at himself. He rides some pretty rough waves when he calls up a Finance Committee bill. He knows what is in it and Mr. Long knows what is in it. I feel that it will be all right as I see them exercise great leadership in dealing with such a bill as this.

Mr. Long is one of the most experienced and likable Members of this body. I would say that about both of them, that they are very likable.

Mr. Dole has a way of using his wit. It can be piercing. It can be crushing. It can be funny.

He demonstrates great efficiency. I personally admire him a great deal.



DOLE HEADS U.S. DELEGATION TO ITALY—VISITS WWII GRAVE SITES OF KANSAS G.I.'s
FLORENCE, ITALY — Kansas Senator Bob Dole, a twice-wounded and twice-decorated veteran of the Italian campaign, is pictured above laying a flower at the grave site of a Kansas G.I. Senator Dole was the head of a 16-member Presidential delegation that recently traveled to Italy to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the allied liberation of Rome on June 4, 1944.
More than 4400 American soldiers are buried at the Florence cemetery, some of whom fought with Senator Dole in the Tenth Mountain Division.

May 1984

RETURN TO ITALY: A WAR REMEMBRANCE, 40 YEARS LATER

By Senator Bob Dole

Memorial Day was especially memorable this year as the free world paused to mark the 40th anniversary of D-Day and other dramatic battles of 1944 that helped end World War II in Europe. For me, a twice-wounded veteran of the Italian campaign, the day would be a bittersweet remembrance of the cost of freedom because I would be returning to the country where a young Kansas officer from Russell saw firsthand the fury of the Third Reich.

It was indeed an honor when President Reagan asked me to lead a special U.S. delegation this year to Italy to commemorate the liberation of Rome, the first major capital to be freed since the blitzkrieg rolled across the continent. The entrance of allied forces into that city on June 4, 1944, was a symbol to the free world that the axis death grip on Europe was slipping.

Memories and White Crosses

The 16-member delegation to Italy included three medal of honor winners, Secretary of the Army John Marsh and General William Vessey, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Our itinerary would include visits to American war cemeteries and battlefields, the delivery of a proclamation from President Reagan marking the liberation of Rome, and renewal of our friendship with the freedom-loving people our forces helped liberate four decades ago. During the long trans-Atlantic flight to Italy, the memories came rushing back: war stories were told and retold,

names and places were summoned from the depths of our minds, and fallen comrades in arms were recalled with the kind of poignancy that only a combat soldier knows.

Although the war seems distant and perhaps even ancient to some, the sight of thousands of white crosses marking the final resting place of young American soldiers will always make the agony of battle real and immediate. Nowhere was this reality more evident on our trip than at the 70-acre Florence American cemetery, a solemn plot of land framed by peaceful wooded hills, where more than 4400 brave servicemen and women are buried, including 41 Kansans. Some of my friends from the Tenth Mountain Division also rest there, young Americans who never questioned or retreated from the sacredness of their mission.

A Rugged Campaign

As one who fought on Italian soil, spilled some of his own blood and left a piece of himself forever behind, it was particularly gratifying to return to a nation now blessed with the fruits of peace and to recall the epic struggle it took to acquire that peace. The peninsula campaign was long and brutal, a relentless drive that began in Sicily, pushed north through the rugged Italian mountains, and didn't stop until victory was achieved 600 days later -- the longest single campaign of the war. The full-scale assault was directed at what was called the "soft underbelly" of Europe. Well, ask anyone who was there -- on the bloody beaches of Anzio or on the deadly slopes of Monte