

That money cannot be spent anywhere else. It is subject to the walls that we have put up around defense spending so you cannot spend it for nondefense work, you cannot spend it for water projects, and I am very, very thankful you cannot. If those walls come down, you will see the pressure for domestic spending eat away at defense needs, including the defense needs as depicted in this bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TOBACCO LEGISLATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today is a sad day for children across America. Big tobacco companies with unlimited lobbying budgets and Republicans in the Senate killed tobacco reform legislation. Kids lost and Joe Camel won. I am outraged at the message this sends: tobacco money is more important than children's health.

Almost four weeks ago, the Senate began debating a comprehensive tobacco bill aimed at reducing underage smoking and strengthening the role of public health agencies to combat tobacco. Congress appeared unified in its intent to end the practice of tobacco companies preying on our children. But some of my colleagues in the Senate got lost along the way.

Since we started debate on tobacco legislation, more than 60,000 children have taken up this deadly addiction. But, this has not been the focus of the debate on this legislation. In fact, if the American people were watching the debate on the Senate floor they would be hard pressed to determine what legislation we were actually debating. That's because the tobacco industry has spent \$40 million to hijack the process and prevent Congress from acting. This is a tragic example of our political system at its worst.

We had an historic opportunity to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation that would have mandated tobacco companies stop targeting our children. In one piece of legislation we could have saved five million children from suffering the ill effects of smoking or facing premature death. Those who acted to kill this legislation will have to answer these five million children, who are now facing a death sentence due to the actions of a few.

To those who think the state suits are a fall back position, they need to know that these suits do not change the corporate culture of tobacco. The states litigate, and Congress legislates.

This is a sad day for those of us who have worked hard to advance the tobacco settlement. Throughout debate

of this legislation, I voted to strengthen the bill to protect our children and prevent the continued deadly assault of tobacco companies.

As a parent, I have always been troubled by how tobacco companies target our children. When my son turned 14, he received a birthday card from a tobacco company inviting him to celebrate this milestone by purchasing cigarettes. They sent a child coupons for cigarettes as a birthday gift. This is outrageous and unacceptable. These are kind of tactics that I have been fighting to end.

I will not let this set back today end my pursuit of big tobacco. I will continue to stand up to tobacco companies. I will continue to work for bipartisan, comprehensive tobacco legislation that is focused on public health.

This is not the first time I have witnessed the power of the tobacco industry or the hold that tobacco money has on many of the same members of the Senate. It is these very members who have used every tactic known to delay, filibuster and load this bill down with so many unrelated items, that it is hard to remember what was in the original legislation.

Every parent should be outraged. The U.S. Senate played politics with the health and safety of children in America. Today's action says that tobacco money is more important than the health and safety of our children. Where are our priorities?

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 16, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,489,043,503,639.58 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty-nine billion, forty-three million, five hundred three thousand, six hundred thirty-nine dollars and fifty-eight cents).

One year ago, June 16, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,355,413,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, four hundred thirteen million).

Five years ago, June 16, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,302,703,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred two billion, seven hundred three million).

Ten years ago, June 16, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,526,681,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred twenty-six billion, six hundred eighty-one million).

Fifteen years ago, June 16, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,304,460,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred four billion, four hundred sixty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,184,583,503,639.58 (Four trillion, one hundred eighty-four billion, five hundred eighty-three million, five hundred three thousand, six hundred thirty-nine dollars and fifty-eight cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 12TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reported

for the week ending June 12 that the U.S. imported 8,862,000 barrels of oil each day, 529,000 barrels a day less than the 9,391,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the rare weeks when Americans imported slightly less foreign oil than the same week a year ago, Americans still relied on foreign oil for 58.4 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States imported about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians should give consideration to the economic calamity certain to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 9,532,000 barrels a day at a cost of approximately \$99,431,640 a day.

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to take just a few moments of the time of the Members to discuss a subject which I find probably no one has ever heard of but, nevertheless, is one of the very serious problems facing the world. I wish my colleagues a Happy World Day to Combat Desertification.

I assume most Senators have never heard of this day, so let me explain. June 17 was established as World Day to Combat Desertification to promote awareness of dryland degradation.

Few Americans today have an association with desertification. My parents and their contemporaries did: the great "Dust Bowl" that occurred in the western United States in the 1930s. Desertification is defined as land degradation in arid and semi-arid areas resulting from climatic variations and human activities. It can occur to such an extent that affected dryland can no longer sustain vegetation, crops, livestock or the people who depend on them for survival. In the 1930s, desertification forced farmers and their families off their land when topsoil—and their livelihood—blew away. Vermont is not arid. But as an agricultural State, Vermonters were pained by the plight of western farmers. The suffering of these farmers who became penniless migrants is still starkly visible in photos of the era.

Hopefully, the U.S. will never experience another "Dust Bowl." We have the expertise and resources to prevent such damage to U.S. agricultural lands. However, it threatens the way of life of one billion people worldwide in underdeveloped countries. The economic consequences of desertification are particularly devastating in regions that are both underdeveloped and arid. In these regions, much of the population relies on subsistence agriculture. Subsistence farmers do not have the means

or incentives to make investments in proper land and water management. Poor land and water management, especially when combined with periodic droughts, are the primary causes of desertification. Other factors include overcultivation, overgrazing, single-crop farming on fragile soil, slash-and-burn land clearing methods, and improper irrigation practices. These factors are often compounded by unwise government policies and the pressure of explosive population growth. When formerly productive farm and pastoral land is degraded, it creates a downward spiral of poverty and rural out-migration—often to the already overcrowded cities. We saw this during our own “Dust Bowl.”

I was only a small child in the 1930s. I never met impoverished farmers dislocated by the “Dust Bowl.” But I have witnessed first hand the effects of desertification in Indonesia and Africa. I saw first hand how hard farmers are fighting to hold on to arable land in the face of huge environmental changes brought on by cutting of the rainforests or overgrazing of arid lands. And I saw the resulting poverty and dislocation that then grip these areas.

Through our foreign aid programs, we are assisting afflicted regions. But we could use our resources more efficiently by joining 124 other nations in ratifying the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and /or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. As the Administration began to sharpen its focus on Africa prior to the President's recent trip, it decided to make U.S. ratification a priority. On the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification, I urge my colleagues to take a look at this treaty and reflect for a moment on the benefits to the U.S. of Senate ratification.

The treaty is in the best interest of the United States. Our agriculture industry, American universities, and our non-governmental organizations have considerable expertise in combating desertification. Businesses like Monsanto, Land O' Lakes, and the Chocolate Manufacturers Association are supporting the treaty because it will increase U.S. business opportunities. Ratification will also increase export of American technical assistance in erosion control. The Irrigation Association supports it because many of its members produce world-class irrigation and water control equipment. After ratification, the U.S. may submit names of its desertification experts and consultants for the international Roster of Independent Experts who are available to provide services.

The treaty does not commit the U.S. to any specific level of foreign assistance. Rather, it asks governments of developed nations to channel existing bilateral and multilateral aid funds through a new mechanism that will provide improved coordination and better use of donor resources. The treaty obligates recipient nations to develop

actions plans “from the bottom up” to combat regional and local desertification. The treaty is remarkable because it calls upon local communities to take the lead in identifying their problems and selecting the best solutions for their particular situations.

On World Day to Combat Desertification, let's not forget our own grim experience with desertification and the “Dust Bowl.” Let's join the other nations that have ratified the Convention to Combat Desertification and prevent a reoccurrence of this tragedy elsewhere.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES RECOMMITTED

Pursuant to Section 312(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following bill was recommitted as indicated:

S. 1415. A bill to reform and restructure the process by which tobacco products are manufactured, marked distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-5529. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Presidential Determination (98-22) relative to sanctions against India for the detonation of a nuclear explosive device; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5530. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “The Animal Welfare Enforcement Report for Fiscal Year 1997”; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5531. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing of Several Evolutionarily Significant Units of West Coast Steelhead” (RIN1018-AE97) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5532. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management

and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding gasoline volatility requirements for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Ozone Nonattainment Area (FRL6102-9) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5533. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “OMB Approval numbers Under the Paperwork Reduction Act” (FRL6111-4) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5534. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the operation of the Premerger Notification Program for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5535. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule amending regulations on nonimmigrant students seeking off-campus employment (RIN1115-AF15) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5536. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding employment of dependents of NATO personnel stationed in the United States (RIN1115-AB52) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5537. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Effect of Parole of Cuban and Haitian Nationals on Resettlement Assistance Eligibility” (RIN1115-AE29) received on June 12, 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5538. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Notice Inviting Applications to the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development” (No. 981-0158) received on June 9, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5539. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Social Security Administration Cost Assignment Methodology Review”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5540. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Employment Tax Deposits—De Minimis Rule” (RIN1545-AW29) received on June 15, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5541. A communication from the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5542. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5543. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a list of General Accounting Office reports for the month