

residents on fixed incomes, who need milk at affordable prices.

At a time when many low-income families are being hurt by severe cuts in food stamp benefits, the compact's milk price increases are especially distressing. The purchase power for food stamp recipients decreased by more than a half-million dollars in the first three months after the compact's decision. Over the coming year, the compact will cost the state's poorest residents more than \$1 million in lost purchasing power.

Government programs that provide food benefits for children are also particularly vulnerable. National statistics show that children are the biggest milk consumers. In fact, while children constitute only 29 percent of the U.S. population, they drink 49 percent of all milk sold. In Massachusetts, over the first three months alone, the increased expense for school lunch programs, which provide many children with the one nutritious meal they have each day, was \$400,000. By September 1998, the compact will cost school lunch programs statewide almost \$2 million.

Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture Jay Healy, a member of the Compact Commission, recently proposed an amendment to exempt school lunch programs from the milk tax, but that attempt was rejected by other commission members.

I recognize that the compact's goal is to help subsidize New England dairy farmers, but penalizing the low-income, elderly, and children is not the best method. Increased training and tax relief programs are among the options we should consider. Alternatives to the compact are necessary and could involve initiating lending programs with banks for preferential interest rates to small farmers, or creating tax-relief initiatives on land transfers, so families are not penalized when farms are transferred from one generation to the next.

It is now in the hands of the five Massachusetts members of the Northeast Dairy Compact Commission. At the December compact meeting, the Massachusetts delegation should offer a motion to rescind their previous vote in favor of the milk tax. Low-income families, children, and senior citizens cannot afford to bear this burden.

Mr. GRAMS. Opposition to the Compact is growing among state legislators from the New England area. One state may even be attempting to pull out of the Compact. Those regions with the most to lose are densely populated and have fewer dairy farmers relative to other regions. The result is an effective subsidization by urban consumers.

A milk tax that burdens financially stressed working families—especially those of lower-income, who rely on reasonable and affordable milk—is wrong. It is high time we put an end to partisan, regional politics which block real, long-term, assistance for dairy farmers.

I intend to continue my efforts to oppose the Northeast Dairy Compact. This will include fighting to obtain a comprehensive, informative study on its effects and consequences.

Mr. CLELAND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] is recognized.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 12 minutes.

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

(The remarks of Mr. CLELAND pertaining to the introduction of S. 1664 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, February 20, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,518,340,599,802.18 (Five trillion, five hundred eighteen billion, three hundred forty million, five hundred ninety-nine thousand, eight hundred two dollars and eighteen cents).

One year ago, February 20, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,340,668,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred forty billion, six hundred sixty-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, February 20, 1973, the Federal debt stood at \$452,362,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-two billion, three hundred sixty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,065,978,599,802.18 (Five trillion, sixty-five billion, nine hundred seventy-eight million, five hundred ninety-nine thousand, eight hundred two dollars and eighteen cents) during the past 25 years.

MEDICAL AID TO ETHIOPIA

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the achievement of Assist International, World Serv, the Hewlett Packard Foundation, and the Erie Area Chamber of Commerce in delivering medical aid to the people of Ethiopia. This group of organizations has worked to provide medical equipment to Ethiopia that can save hundreds of lives. This generous gift, valued at over one million dollars, will bring hope and health to many in Ethiopia.

These organizations and the concerned Americans associated with them have demonstrated the true spirit of charity. The group cooperatively has donated a state-of-the-art cardiac heart monitoring unit to the Black Lion Hospital—Ethiopia's leading teaching medical facility. In addition to the cardiac unit, beds, mattresses, and other system support equipment will be provided.

World Serv and Assist International have a strong history of providing humanitarian aid to relieve human suffering in needy countries. Assist International donated medical equipment to a site in Mongolia which was then approved by the World Health Organization to perform open heart surgery. The Hewlett Packard Foundation donated the medical equipment in the Black Lion Project in its goal to ease human suffering internationally. Finally, the Chamber of Commerce of Erie, Pennsylvania, has joined together with the other organizations and has raised the funding for transportation, installation, and training costs of this project. Specifically, I commend the Erie Area Chamber of Commerce for

this cooperative effort and for holding the third annual "Aid to Africa" banquet to raise funds for humanitarian projects.

The Black Lion project is an example of the compassion and generosity that other countries appreciate and admire in the United States. It gives me great pleasure as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Africa Subcommittee to know that Americans are finding ways within the private sector to aid other countries in Africa. It is my pleasure to ask the members of the Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the work of the members and staff of Assist International, World Serv, the Hewlett Packard Foundation, and the Erie Area Chamber of Commerce.

JOSEPH CHESHIRE WEBB (1915-1998)

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as I speak, the countless friends of Joe Webb have been sadly saying farewell to him at services today in Raleigh and at Saint Matthews Church cemetery in Hillsborough, Joe's final resting place.

Joseph Cheshire Webb, 83, died this past Friday afternoon after a distinguished career as trust officer for Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Raleigh—which he had served for decades as head of that bank's trust department.

But it was not merely Joe's able service as a highly respected banker that earned for him the wide circle of friends who were saddened by the news of his passing.

Joe was thoughtful and caring without fail—and his sense of humor made him welcome everywhere he went.

In other words, he was a genuinely good guy, a sincere and honorable friend. His service in the Navy during World War II, his participation in the civic and business life of Raleigh and the State of North Carolina, and the sincerity of his friendly personality earned for him the respect and affection of all who knew him.

To all of us who knew Joe Webb well, he was what the late Senator Dick Russell of Georgia so often referred to as "one of Nature's Noblemen."

I am proud to have been his friend, Mr. President, and to have him as mine. I shall miss him.

ROGER STEVENS—A GIANT FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with the death of Roger Stevens earlier this month, the nation lost one of its greatest leaders in the arts. Roger Stevens was the Founding Chairman and unstoppable visionary for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Just inside the entrance of the Center is a bust of Roger Stevens with those words inscribed to him.

Roger Stevens was a real estate magnate who loved the excitement, energy and creativity of American theater. During his lifetime, he produced hundreds of plays and musicals, including

many of the nation's all-time favorites such as "West Side Story," "Les Miserables," and "Annie."

It was Roger Stevens whose efforts and extraordinary ability created Washington's national cultural center which was later named for my brother, President Kennedy. The Kennedy Center today is truly the house that Roger built, and it is a wonderful living memorial to my brother. It presents the finest in the performing arts on its stages, and it is an extraordinary success. Washingtonians and an estimated million visitors to Washington each year enjoy its performances and educational programs.

In St. Paul's Cathedral in London, there is a tribute to its great architect, Christopher Wren. It says, "If you would see his monument, look around you." The Kennedy Center is a monument to Roger Stevens' too.

I know that my brother would be very proud of the Center which bears his name. All of us who value achievement in the arts treasure the Center's continued pursuit of Roger's dream—that Washington will be a great center for the performing arts and that the Kennedy Center will present the best in plays, symphonies, ballets and operas from across the country and around the world. Roger Stevens made it possible for all of us to share in that dream—and the nation owes him a tremendous debt.

I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to Roger Stevens at a memorial service on February 4 at Oak Street Cemetery Chapel in Georgetown be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the tributes were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TRIBUTE BY MARTA ISTOMIN

I came to the Kennedy Center in January 1980 and worked closely with Roger Stevens some 10 years and our friendship lasted 'til the end. It was much more than friendship from my part—it was admiration, affection and respect, and the realization of the privilege of being near such an extraordinary personality—from whom I learned so much.

Many have spoken and written about Roger's lifetime achievements. I can only speak first hand about those later years when he was involved in the development of the artistic dream of making the Kennedy Center a genuine National Cultural Center—raising the awareness of what true Art means—as compared to just anything that carries the label of Performing Arts—and we need to know the difference! A Center that would be a place where the best expression and excellence of American Arts would be appreciated and encouraged—while presenting the best from around the world.

At the Kennedy Center—the house that Roger built—there was an incandescent spirit it within those walls—not only on the stages but before the performances were ever on stage. The ideas, the preparation, the challenges, the excitement! It was Roger that instilled that spirit. He was a passionate believer and supporter of many projects—not only for the Theater—but for all forms of arts. One of his extraordinary gifts was for recognizing creative talent and for bringing together the best artists. As an example, when he served as first chairman of the National Council on the Arts, he assembled

such council members as: Agnes De Mille, Ralph Ellison, John Steinbeck, George Stevens, Sr., Gregory Peck, Oliver Smith, Leonard Bernstein, Isaac Stern, William Pereira, Minoru Yamasaki, David Smith, and Philip Hanes.

This tells us the all encompassing vision he had for culture in America.

I can tell you what working with him was like.

If he believed in you—he gave you full reign to pursue your goals, and, while observing their development one could feel supported and understood. When there was a project that he might not be completely familiar with, he would listen—look at the budget and finally ask: "Do you believe in it? Is it worthwhile for this Center? . . . then, go for it." If there was something that did not succeed, there would be no blame. Let's learn from it and go to the next project.

It was a very personal kind of leadership. He inspired others by his dedication and his intuitive genius in recognizing excellence. Unless he was traveling for fund-raising or scouting for new projects all over the world, he was day and night at the Center—hardly ever missing a performance. His curiosity and thirst for knowledge were constantly fed by extensive reading.

He loved to attend rehearsals. He would drop into every office—asked questions. His memory was prodigious, especially for numbers and budgets. During his era there was no need for long memos, strategy meetings or management meetings. He simply led the way—without too many words. We understood, the work was done, and wonderful programs were given. Everything fell into place. He elicited the best in each of us.

In moments of détente, he would enjoy good laughs, conversation, a glass of good wine, reports on artistic ventures and gossip about artists. He loved to talk to artists, staff, stagehands and volunteers—he would be informed about everything.

Roger radiated a quality that was powerful but benign. The power to make things happen through the humble, plain and complete dedication for his cause.

His generosity was as his commitment—enormous.

My husband Eugene would make him laugh when he mimicked his way of approaching big donors. He would say "Look it." "There is this great project. I'm giving X thousand dollars towards this play-opera. This is important for our Cultural Center, to work for everybody's sake. Will you join me?" And so they did. But it was Roger who gave first, and usually the most, and they followed.

I recall that a beautiful Monet painting, one of the Nymphaea Series hung in the living room of the Stevens' home. One day it disappeared. "Where's the Monet?" "I sold it. We needed the money at the Center," without even a sign of regret. That was Roger! That was his extraordinary leadership.

But there is another side of Roger which was perhaps less evident to the public. The personal shining star of his life—Christine. One day I was waiting for him at his office looking at a beautiful picture of Christine that he always had on his desk. I said, "She is truly a beautiful woman." He said, "Oh . . . so beautiful outside and inside," and his eyes filled up as he spoke. Both he and Christine have been missionaries. He was a leading champion for the Arts in America. Christine's mission has been first and foremost the companionship and care of Roger over a whole lifetime and their daughter Christabel. She also embraced humanitarian and humane causes for which she works tirelessly. Because of their example, many have been made aware of how determined dedication can affect our world. They celebrated

their wedding anniversaries on New Year's Day and at the celebrations on New Year's Eve at the Kennedy Center, and later on in our home. Christine would always wear a white orchid given to her by Roger. Theirs was a true love story for 60 years.

Roger you will remain in our minds and hearts.

You remain as a shining inspiration for generations to come.

Your life achievements will always be cause for celebration.

And, we loved you!

TRIBUTE BY WILLIAM McCORMICK BLAIR

I knew Roger for forty-six years. He was a warm and wonderful friend and one of the most decent and honorable people I've ever known.

He is gone now but his long and luminous life has left us with indelible memories.

I had the enormous privilege of working closely with Roger during the Adlai Stevenson years when he was one of our most effective fund-raisers. He didn't change over the years—back then the same unassuming and modest nature, completely without pretense.

Roger used to say to me that if I could block off a luncheon he would produce five or six people, each of whom would contribute \$50,000 to the campaign—a significant sum in those days—and produce he did. I remember standing with him in the fields outside Adlai's house in Libertyville and watching the private planes circling like angels before landing to disgorge the contributors. And in New York, when on occasion the networks would refuse to put Adlai on national TV until the money was in hand, we went to Roger, who would invariably say, "Don't worry, I'll take care of it."

The "Don't worry, I'll take care of it" approach carried over to the turbulent years during which the Kennedy Center was constructed. There were difficult times and innumerable provocations, frustrations with architects, contractors, performers, playwrights, etc., to say nothing of endless trips to the Hill seeking funds, but Roger was unfailingly generous, considerate, good humored, and kind—and he made it all work.

I remember his first heart attack—he called me from New York at six or seven in the morning telling me that he knew he had had a heart attack in his apartment, had gotten dressed and walked over to Lenox Hill Hospital, from where he was calling. He asked me to reschedule or take over some meetings, but admonished me not to call Christine, saying it was too early to bother her and that he would call her in an hour. So typically considerate, as always.

Dear Christine, together with your independent spirit, you combined over the years a thoughtfulness, enthusiasm and warmth of friendship which you brought to everyone, and a devotion to Roger so tender, so thoughtful, so full of consideration and kindness that it would be hard to suggest an equal.

Horace Greeley once said, "Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wind, and those who cheer today will curse tomorrow. Only one thing endures—character."

And it was his character that was Roger's ultimate strength.

So with unmeasured gratitude we remember the impeccable dignity and integrity that were the hallmarks of his life. For all of us, and particularly for Christine and Christobel, there are those wonderful memories. It is also for the little things we remember as well as the ones the obituaries have been listing, that we send our love back to Roger.

Robert Ingersoll could have had Roger in mind when he said of a friend, "He added to

the sum of human joy, and were everyone to whom he did some loving service to bring a blossom to his grave, he would sleep tonight beneath a wilderness of flowers."

TRIBUTE BY SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

There's a famous saying that all men are dust, but some are gold dust. And that's how we thought of Roger—a golden friend, one of the finest friends our family ever had.

Roger was an easy friend to love. He was a quiet, modest man; but his low-key manner disguised energy, passion and ability of the highest order. These three priceless qualities earned him enormous success in his brilliant career. But even more important, they earned him the enduring respect and genuine affection of the countless people whose lives he touched.

He was well-known for saying very little, and equally well-known for mumbling—a lot. But if you paid close attention, you realized he was talking about "West Side Story" or a thousand other creations that his mind's eye could so clearly see, and the rest of us would come to see in due course as well.

He was pre-eminent in real estate by profession, especially for his legendary purchase and sale of the Empire State Building—Roger never did anything small. But as we all know, his heart and soul were with the theater.

So it was inevitable that Jack and Jackie and Roger would find each other. Frankly, they came together like a magnet. From his first days in public service, Jack had been deeply committed to a leading role for the arts in the nation's life. As my brother said near the end of the 1960 campaign, "There is a connection, hard to explain logically but easy to feel, between achievement in public life and progress in the arts. The Age of Pericles was also the age of Phidias. The Age of Lorenzo de Medici was also the Age of Leonardo da Vinci. The Age of Elizabeth was also the Age of Shakespeare. And the New Frontier for which I campaign in public life can also be a New Frontier for American art."

So it was natural and inevitable that Jack would give Roger the assignment of establishing a national performing arts center here in Washington. Roger was a man after Jack's heart—the difficult you do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer.

Roger simply said, as he always did, "I'll take care of it." And the rest is history—the house that Roger built, a quarter mile from here—the beautiful living memorial to my brother.

In a sense, I inherited Roger from Jack. I often kidded Roger that he was a modern Robin Hood—robbing his friends to support the arts.

His special gift was not just constructing a building, or planning the endless series of hit plays and musicals that bore his special stamp. Roger enriched the entire nation by instilling a higher appreciation across America for the possibilities of artistic achievement. He had a remarkable eye for the best emerging playwrights and the best unknown actors. He gave them a chance and a stage, and he gave the nation a higher level of greatness.

Roger succeeded where others failed because he would never allow himself to be distracted by the mean-spirited. He had a determination that could overcome any obstacle or criticism. He was never burdened, some might add, by any sense of reality, which made him all the more endearing and successful, when many others would have failed.

Above all, it was Roger and Christine together—they brought a new era of grace to Washington and new sense of achievement that reflects the best of the human spirit. We miss you, Roger, and we always will.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FUNDAMENTAL TAX REFORM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to talk for just a few minutes about a long-term goal of many Senate Republicans, and I think most Americans. And that is fundamental tax reform.

Our Tax Code contains the accumulation of 85 years of various special interest provisions, and provisions that have just been added through one tax bill or another. And it has become more complicated, more difficult, and more unfair with every passing year.

Since the Federal Government first started taxing Americans' income, the tax beast has grown, and the power of the tax collector along with it. That is why we need IRS reform, and why we will have an IRS reform bill on the floor of the Senate by the end of March so that we can pass it before April 15th of this year. It certainly is overdue. But we have found a lot of the problems that we have suspected really do exist and in many ways are worse than the worst horror stories we have heard.

We now have a system in which the Federal Government takes one dollar out of every five dollars that you earn. And the IRS uses its coercive powers to pry into every aspect of financial life and personal life. It has gotten totally out of control.

The copy of the Tax Code that I have here contains thousands of pages in very small print, and weighs 6½ pounds. How could the average working small businessman, farmer, rancher, or individual be expected to cope with and understand all that is in these two very large volumes?

The IRS has an annual budget now of \$7.7 billion. We spend five times more to pay tax auditors to harass hard-working citizens than we spend to clean up Superfund waste sites.

It really doesn't make sense.

It is important that we in Congress admit that we are part of the problem because every time we have good intentions we pass another tax bill that reduces taxes—hopefully, in most instances. But it doesn't make it simpler. In many ways it quite often makes it more complicated.

The Congress writes the tax law. And almost every time we pass a tax bill we make the code more complex, increase the burden on the taxpayer, and make it harder to enforce.

For all of these reasons, America needs fundamental tax reform.

Incremental tax cuts are good. And I hope we can have some this year. And I am glad we were able to take a small

step toward reducing the taxpayers' burden last year in the very critical areas of capital gains, estate tax, and families with children.

To go where we really need to go, however, we must force the Congress to act.

To make fundamental tax reform happen, we need a "forcing event," a deadline.

I firmly believe that Congress will never commit itself to replacing the Tax Code with something simpler, flatter, and growth-friendly, unless we create our own deadline.

For that reason, I want to announce today that I will ask Budget Committee Chairman DOMENICI to put a sense-of-the-Senate provision in this year's budget resolution that the current Tax Code should be terminated as of December 31, 2001.

I am also an original cosponsor of Senator HUTCHINSON's bill, S. 1520, The Tax Code Termination Act.

In addition to the sense-of-the-Senate provision in the budget resolution, we will vote on legislation like Senator HUTCHINSON's bill this year.

It creates the deadline to force Washington and the American people to make some hard choices but to make the right choices.

We will then be able to see who is serious about replacing our rat's nest Tax Code, and who wants to defend the current tax system.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MARKING THE SIXTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the Senate has been blessed with the presence of many fine men and women over the past two centuries. Many of the great figures in our country's history played their parts before a Senate backdrop. Names such as Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun leap to mind.

I should say, incidentally, that I have been unable to find any piece of legislation, certainly any major piece of legislation, that carries the name of Webster, Clay or Calhoun. They did not achieve their greatness by introducing legislation and by seeing it enacted, but they spoke to the great issues of the day and spoke with fervor and courageously and with great vision.

But there are speakers, thinkers and leaders in more recent times as well, and I think of Robert Taft of Ohio, renowned in his day for his integrity and intelligence; I think of Georgia's erudite, gentlemanly Richard Russell; and of the wise, capable Mike Mansfield