

financial institutions, and on-line service providers—should define and articulate most of the rules that will govern electronic commerce.”

Mr. ASHCROFT. All that said, encryption and digital signatures do not and should not be joined in the same legislation. The opportunity we have before us is to bring the encryption debate into the open and to pass legislation that adequately addresses the concerns of law enforcement, national security, privacy, and system security.

Mr. ABRAHAM. At the same time, we have the opportunity to affect real growth in digital signature technologies by addressing digital signature as a separate piece of legislation during this Congress. We should not allow differences in encryption policy to stifle innovation and improvements in this exciting technology. Digital signature is crucial to ensuring the continued dynamic growth of electronic commerce in this country. Many in Congress recognize this, industry recognizes this, and the Administration agrees.

Mr. CRAIG. In order to pass legislation in a timely manner it is important that it be in a clean bill with only the most essential language related to encryption; language that seeks to protect individual privacy, while at the same time addressing national security and law enforcement concerns.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise because I have concerns about efforts to ease or remove export restrictions on certain hardware and software encryption products. Export controls on encryption and on other products serve a clearly defined purpose—to protect our nation's security. The Intelligence Committee believes that the effects on U.S. national security must be the paramount concern when considering any proposed change to encryption export policy, and the Committee will seek referral of any legislation regarding encryption export policy under its jurisdiction established under Senate Resolution 400. With our on-going investigation into the possible technology transfers to China, the Vice Chairman and I are also concerned that any effort to change U.S. export policy on encryption be consistent with the export policy review included in our investigation.

Export restrictions on encryption products assist the Intelligence Community in its signals intelligence mission. By collecting and analyzing signals intelligence, U.S. intelligence agencies seek to understand the policies, intentions, and plans of foreign state and nonstate actors. Signals intelligence plays an important role in the formation of American foreign and defense policy. It is also a significant factor in the U.S. efforts to protect its citizens and armed forces against terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, narcotics trafficking, international crime and other threats to our nation's security.

While the Committee recognizes the commercial interest in easing or removing export restrictions, it believes the safety of our citizens and armed forces should be the predominant concern when considering U.S. policy towards the export of any product. The Committee supports the continued control of encryption products, and believes that a comprehensive strategy on encryption export policy can be developed that addresses national security concerns as well as the promotion of American commercial interests abroad.

I look forward to working with Senator LOTT and others as legislation moves through the Senate.

Mr. ASHCROFT. The bottom line to all of this is that we can move encryption legislation in this Congress, with the support of the majority leader. To hold up this progress works against national security, works against support of our law enforcement and erodes individual's privacy protections. We should all diligently work to craft an encryption bill that can come to the floor this session.

Mr. LOTT. I agree with my colleagues. While I strongly support the passage of legislation on both encryption and on digital signatures, I am convinced that the best approach during this session is to deal with these matters in separate bills. Let me say again, that in order to pass legislation on both of these issues during this Congress, we must recognize that there are significant differences between these important and complex policy issues. Digital signature and certificate authority have appeared in various proposals in association with encryption. However, these matters need to be considered separately because they raise different questions and complications.

A digital signature is a technical method for authenticating the identity of a sender or author.

As its name implies, it is a digital version of a person's written signature. Encryption is a means to ensure confidentiality. It is a set of algorithms used to scramble and unscramble text in order to keep unauthorized person's from reading your computer data and messages. It is a technology that protects medical, business, and individual files from invasion. Again, encryption for confidentiality, and digital signatures for authentication and related certificate authorities, are not the same issue. Dealing with encryption and digital signatures in one piece of legislation could lead to the demise of such a weighted bill. Consequently, I am prepared and committed to moving separate bills dealing with these issues during this session. I urge my colleagues to support this dual track approach as my colleagues have recommended. I share the belief that this is the best chance for legislation to be passed in both of these areas during the 105th Congress.

Congress needs to stop debating these issues and enact balanced legislation

that will ensure the privacy rights of individuals while protecting America's public safety, economic, and national security interests.

Mr. BURNS. I commend the Majority Leader and Senators LEAHY, CRAIG, ASHCROFT, ABRAHAM, and SHELBY for their continuing hard work and vision on these difficult but critical issues. I hope we will be able to move forward legislatively on both encryption reform and digital signatures this session.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MAX FISHER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am always reluctant to add another national holiday to our calendar, but were we to do so, then July 15 would be a good bet. For today is Max Fisher's birthday.

In fact, it is his 90th birthday. But longevity, important as it is, is the least of his accomplishments.

Many of our colleagues, from both sides of the aisle, know Max very well. He has long been one of the most prominent and influential leaders in the American Jewish community.

He has advised every Republican President since Richard Nixon. He has advised every Israeli Prime Minister since Golda Meir. He was a critical force behind the airlift that helped save Israel in the darkest days of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

The great work of his life has been building bridges between Israel and the United States. But that is only one of many reasons to honor him.

Max is one of our Nation's greatest philanthropists. He played a vital role in his home city of Detroit after the tragic riots of 1967 by promoting reconciliation and economic opportunity. He continues in that effort today.

No one will ever know how many people have benefited from his quiet generosity.

Max, of course, would prefer the term social responsibility. Whatever the words, the meaning is the same, and so is the inspiration. As the Book of Proverbs teaches, "He who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord."

Ten years ago, when Max celebrated his eightieth birthday, accolades came in from around the world. President Reagan called him "a legend."

Today, ten years later, the legend continues to build. He still works quietly, behind the scenes.

It is no coincidence that his biography is entitled, "The Quiet Diplomat." That book documents what all of his friends and admirers know so well: His dedication to the cause of peace, his energy in the cause of justice, his wisdom and effectiveness in working for a better world.

At some point, with a man like Max, we run out of accolades. He has heard them all—and probably been impressed by none of them.

His eye is always on the future: What remains to be done, what is still to be built, what has not yet been set right.

In that spirit, on behalf of the Senate of the United States, I want to wish

him yet another Happy Birthday, in the full realization that these ninety years have been as much a blessing to us and to the Nation as they have been to him and to his family.

To Max from America: Mazel tov, and God bless.

DESERT CHORALE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a Las Vegas institution. No, I am not referring to the "Strip" and the neon lights, but to a cultural organization that has provided Las Vegas many years of enjoyment, the Desert Chorale. I have had the pleasure of listening to their incredible range of talent for the past 16 years. This spectacular choir made up of volunteers has provided Nevada music lovers countless hours of enjoyment. While Las Vegas and Southern Nevada may be known for big head-liners like Siegfried and Roy, Liberace and Elvis, I can personally attest that thousands of Nevadans have flocked to the Desert Chorale's concerts over the years. From the patriotic to the spiritually uplifting, the sheer beauty of the music they make touches and inspires their audiences.

Now, this great choir from the Silver State will be sharing their talent with a slice of the world audience. The Desert Chorale has been recognized for their musical achievements and have been invited to participate in the Boris Brodt Music Festival in Canada. The festival is entering into its twelfth year and their contributions to Canada's and the world's cultural scene has been highly praised. Not only does the choir have the honor of being invited to this festival, but they were also chosen as the first musical organization of its kind to represent the Western United States. I stand here on behalf of the great state of Nevada, as that state's senior senator, and the United States of America, to congratulate the Desert Chorale on taking part in this prestigious tradition. The Desert Chorale will be an excellent addition to the festival. I am confident from the previous performances I have attended, that they will do a superb job in representing the great heritage of both the state of Nevada and the United States of America.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 15, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,530,848,048,686.17 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty billion, eight hundred forty-eight million, forty-eight thousand, six hundred eighty-six dollars and seventeen cents).

One year ago, July 15, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,355,394,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, three hundred ninety-four million).

Five years ago, July 15, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,336,912,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred thirty-six billion, nine hundred twelve million).

Ten years ago, July 15, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,550,628,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred fifty billion, six hundred twenty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, July 15, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,330,290,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred thirty billion, two hundred ninety million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,200,558,048,686.17 (Four trillion, two hundred billion, five hundred fifty-eight million, forty-eight thousand, six hundred eighty-six dollars and seventeen cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 14, 1998, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2282. An act to amend the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2379. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

H.R. 2544. An act to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions.

H.R. 3223. An act to designate the Federal building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building."

H.R. 3453. An act to designate the Federal Building and Post Office located at 100 East B Street, Casper, Wyoming, as the "Dick Cheney Federal Building."

H.R. 4164. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of child custody and visitation orders.

The message also announced that the House has the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 318. An act to require automatic cancellation and notice of cancellation rights with respect to private mortgage insurance which is required as a condition for entering into a residential mortgage transaction, to abolish the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1273) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years

1998 and 1999 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2870) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forest through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2379. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2544. An act to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3223. An act to designate the Federal building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3453. An act to designate the Federal Building and Post Office located at 100 East B Street, Casper, Wyoming, as the "Dick Cheney Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4164. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of child custody and visitation orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on July 14, 1998, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 2282. An act to amend the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-506. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of North Miami Beach, Florida relative to the renaming of the Everglades National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-507. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan relative to global warming; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-508. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

Whereas, the business meal deduction is one hundred percent legitimate business expense and should be a one hundred percent legitimate deduction; and

Whereas, two-thirds of business meal deduction users make less than sixty thousand dollars in income per year; and

Whereas, seventy percent of such business meal users typically use low to moderately priced restaurants for business lunches; and

Whereas, restoring the business meal deduction was the number two priority of the one thousand six hundred business delegates