

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 Brott 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 3000 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