

Pressler said instead of rushing through legislation that he feels would be a detriment of the state's family farming heritage, he would rather see a continuing resolution that will extend the 1990 Farm Bill for another year if there's an impasse on farm bill legislation.

"Farm bills are always late because they are so controversial and they require so much work," he said, "this year in particular because of the severe budgetary crisis we are in.

"We have producers in South Dakota who are not in the farm program, such as many of our cow-calf operators. We have to think about them in terms of international trade and exports. But we also have to think about the impact the huge deficit has on farmers. If the deficit stays as high as it is, it will mean higher interest rates."

"While balancing the budget is a top priority for Pressler, he doesn't want the numbers game to take priority over the people he represents.

"I come from a family farm and I have seen how farm families struggle on the land," he said. "We have to be very careful, but on the other hand we have to be honest with people. There's a lot of stuff floating around this year from the inside-the-Beltway bureaucrats. Every time we have asked the bureaucrats to reorganize they have threatened to close some local offices or take away some local services."

Pressler said the new farm bill must help producers make a decent living and allow them flexibility about what and where they can plant without all the hassle of government rules and regulations.

But he said the most important thing lawmakers can do when writing the farm bill is to provide a framework that assists beginning farmers and provides opportunities for the next generation of South Dakota agricultural producers.

During the 20 years Pressler has been in Washington, the number of farms in South Dakota has dropped from 43,000 to 33,000 this year.

"When I was in 4-H there was a lot of young farmers who went into farming and that was their dream," he said. "But nowadays many of the young 4-H'ers I talk to don't go into farming or ranching. They go out of state in many cases to take jobs."

He said technological changes are a big factor, making it more expensive to get started in farming. But he said young people also don't have the opportunity to borrow the seed money they need.

"We have to be constantly tailoring some of these loan programs for young farmers, change the estate tax law (which I'm trying to do as a member of the Senate Finance Committee) and income averaging for farmers, so young producers can get started," Pressler said.

Getting the message about the needs of South Dakota farmers across to his colleagues is hard, especially when farmers only make up about 2 percent of the nation's population of 700,000 plus is a mere drop in the bucket to the country's 260 million people.

"It is very, very hard because people don't want to listen sometimes," Pressler said. "They think that our farmers are doing OK and they read about the subsidies they receive. There's a lot of disinformation out there that really makes my job a challenge."

#### THANKS TO THE STAFF

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last Thursday, the Senate passed the fiscal year 1996 foreign operations bill. The vote was 91 to 9. That is the largest number of Senators to vote for a for-

eign aid appropriations bill that I can recall. I want to congratulate Senator MCCONNELL for his efforts in getting the bill done, and for the overwhelming bipartisan vote. I think it shows that despite assertions to the contrary, the Senate and the American people do support foreign aid.

I also want to thank a number of other people who contributed greatly to putting this bill together, and getting it passed.

In the Congress, the majority clerk of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Jim Bond, was indispensable. Jim has been around here a long time, and has gained the unqualified respect of both sides of the aisle. Senator HATFIELD could not have a more competent and dedicated adviser to the subcommittee. Jim was very ably assisted by Juanita Rilling, who has also gained an expertise in the foreign assistance programs.

On Senator MCCONNELL's personal staff, Robin Cleveland was instrumental in preparing the fiscal year 1996 bill, and in finding common ground with my staff in developing a product that Senator MCCONNELL and I could support and defend. Robin did a superb job in her first year as the subcommittee chairman's principal adviser on a wide range of foreign aid issues. Robin also had the very able and tireless assistance of Billy Piper.

On my side, Tim Rieser, who was a member of the subcommittee staff during my 6 years as chairman, gave me fine assistance throughout. Dick D'Amato, a member of the committee staff, expertly handled several important and difficult issues, including the compromise that was reached on the language concerning Korea and several amendments on the former Yugoslavia. I want to thank him and Senator BYRD for his contribution.

Janice O'Connell and Diana Olbaum of the Foreign Relations Committee staff helped resolve several difficult issues. Pam Norick on Senator MURRAY's staff and Robin Lieberman on Senator FEINGOLD's staff were very helpful in preparing for the contentious debate on international family planning.

There are many people in the administration who deserve mention. While I cannot name them all, I do want to recognize Wendy Sherman, the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the State Department. Wendy has been a tireless advocate for the Secretary, and for the American people. Her deputy, Will Davis, was an indispensable link between me and my staff, and the State Department. Will's good natured manner and willingness to search for the answer to any question we had was greatly appreciated.

At the Agency for International Development, Jill Buckley, Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs, with the assistance of Bob Boyer and Marianne O'Sullivan, and so many other people, made it possible for us to manage with a very difficult

budget situation. I also want to single out Bob Lester, whose extraordinary knowledge of the Foreign Assistance Act prevented us from making any egregious drafting errors. Without Bob, I hate to think what kind of laws we would pass.

At the Treasury Department, Robert Baker and Victor Rojas did their best to convince a skeptical Congress of the importance of maintaining U.S. leadership in the international financial institutions.

At the Defense Security Assistance Agency, Michael Friend and Vanessa Murray were always ready to help.

Mr. President, I am sure that I have left out people I should not have. For that I apologize. Let me simply conclude by saying that I have greatly appreciated the help of all these dedicated people in getting the foreign operations bill through the Senate. I often wish that critics of the Federal Government would come to Washington and see what people like those I have mentioned do every day. They would see that they are exceptionally intelligent, committed people who work extremely long hours at a fraction of the pay many of them could earn in the private sector. They deserve our respect, and our thanks.

#### THE PASSING OF CHRISTOPHER VAUGHN

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to remember Christopher Vaughn. A good man died on Sunday and he will be missed by his friends, family, and loved ones. Christopher Vaughn was a joyful, fun loving, and giving person. Every time I had the chance to be around him I felt lucky. I enjoyed our conversations and remember the laughter and smiles that always accompanied those occasions.

Christopher Vaughn was an incredible talent. He was a scholar in Renaissance history, and he had a natural flair for the world of entertainment. It is a great thing for a person to use a natural ability to its fullest, and that is what he did.

Chris began his career writing scholarly papers in Spain and then turned his literary skills to the entertainment industry when he joined the Hollywood Reporter in 1987. It is clear why he was such a success. He was smart, witty, and eloquent. His promotion to managing editor of special issues was a surprise to no one, I am sure. Working at Nickelodeon as the director of talent relations, he brought great talent to the network.

His work at Dolores Robinson Entertainment certainly paved the way. He and Delores were the team who adopted me in the early days of my effort to be elected to the U.S. Senate. Of course, it was Chris who attended to the details. He understood that history is written from the details, and that each person can make a difference in the way that challenges are resolved. Perhaps it was his appreciation for history that made

him such an advocate for my election, but I like to think it was more his vision for the future which so inspired him.

While his résumé is impressive, it is the goodness of the man I will remember. His name was not in the headlines every day, but he touched the lives of everyone he met. He was a man who did much to leave this world a better place than he found it. The entertainment world will miss him, his family will miss him, and together with all of his other friends, I will miss him.

#### THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on the memorable evening in 1972 when I was first elected to the Senate, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

It has proved enormously beneficial to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited during the nearly 23 years I have been in the Senate.

Most of them have been concerned about the enormity of the Federal debt that Congress has run up for the coming generations to pay.

The young people and I almost always discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 22, 1992. I wanted to make a matter of daily record of the precise size of the Federal debt which as of yesterday, Tuesday, September 26, stood at \$4,953,250,764,121.84 or \$18,802.63 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

Mr. BURNS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak for 15 minutes as in morning business.

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

#### PROGRESSIVE POLICY INSTITUTE

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, this morning, myself, Senator BREAUX, Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator NUNN stood with an organization called the Progressive Policy Institute to embrace some recommendations, an outline of recommendations they made to reform both the Medicare Program—a \$170 billion program that is funded

with the combination of a 2.9-percent payroll tax and a health insurance premium paid for by 37 million beneficiaries over the age of 65 with \$46 or so a month, that funds about 30 percent of the part B, the doctor's payment, as well as \$80 billion program for Medicaid.

These are the most rapidly growing items in the budget. They are not the most, but in terms of total dollars, this \$250 billion collective program has gotten quite expensive. It has tormented a lot of Members who have been trying to figure out what to do to control the growth, in particular, of entitlements.

Last year, Senator Danforth, a former Senator from Missouri, and I made some recommendations about what should be done to reform entitlements. The purpose of our recommendation was to say to Americans that we should agree that no more than a certain percentage of our budget would go to entitlements, plus net interest.

Looking at the future, given the current trend lines particularly with the enormous demographic problem, mostly demographic not political problem, of 60 million baby boomers starting to retire in 2008, look at that problem and the cost of our entitlements not too long after the year 2008—all of our budget will be consumed by entitlement spending.

When I say all, there are not very many things in Washington, DC, that have stayed constant over the years. One that has stayed constant, except for two periods in this century, World War II and for a period during the Vietnam war, the percent that has been withdrawn from the economy to fund Federal programs, approximately 19 percent, about how much we withdraw from the economy, a fifth of the U.S. economy is used to fund Federal programs. That really has not changed except for two wartime situations.

It is likely that indicates that is about what Americans think we ought to be withdrawing from the U.S. economy for the Federal Government. There may be some that would argue we ought to do more, not very many; and maybe some would argue we should do dramatically less. Probably it means we will spend about 19 percent.

If that is the constant, Mr. President, it is very alarming to see the growth of entitlements in net interest because as it grows it decreases the amount of money available to defend our country, to keep our cities safe, educate our children, to build our roads, our sewers, our water system, space exploration—all those sorts of things.

This year's budget, 67 percent of our budget goes to entitlements and net interest, and in the year 2002 at the end of the 7-year budget resolution that we are operating under, it will be 75 percent—an 8 point increase in a span of 7 years. That is a lot of money, about \$135 billion or \$140 billion increase in entitlements, if you do it in a single year.

As I said, Mr. President, that trend really rapidly accelerates when the baby boomers retire some 6 years later. The entitlement commission tried to say to Americans, "Let's make changes in our programs sooner rather than later." The sooner we do them the bigger the future impact and the more time we can give beneficiaries or recipients, in the case of Medicaid, with time to plan.

They can begin to adjust their own thinking about planning. If you have to adjust the eligibility age, which we recommended over a period of time; or if you have to phase in some change in premium payments, or whatever. Give people time to plan. It is more likely they can adjust.

There are tough recommendations, Mr. President. Contained inside of the recommendations was another presumption which is that we are seeing the marketplace work. It is a relatively recent change in health care.

When we debated health care 4 years ago, the facts as presented to the American people would cause you to believe that actually the Government was doing a better job of controlling costs than the private sector. Private sector costs exceeded the public side.

Today not only is that reversed, but strikingly so. We are seeing in some parts of the country where a high percentage of managed care, even some declines in overall cost of health care, where the public sector continues to grow in double digits.

That sort of frames a little bit, in a preliminary fashion, why I was pleased with the Progressive Policy Institute's proposal. It does propose to address the problem of growing entitlements, and it does propose to take advantage of the changes that are occurring in the marketplace, to restructure Medicare and Medicaid to take advantage of the changes that are occurring.

Let me say, Mr. President, one of the things I do when I am at home and talking about the current debate about Medicare and Medicaid is to say I am pleased that Republicans are trying to preserve and protect the program. Many Republicans were not, as you know. Some Republicans were opposed to this over the years. Now what we have appears to be almost unanimous—Republicans saying not only do we think Medicare is a good idea, we want to preserve Medicare for our children and for our grandchildren.

Mr. President, let me point out that underneath the program is a presumption, an assumption that we have to believe before the program itself can stand, before we can reach the conclusion that we want to preserve and protect it. That assumption is this: No matter what we do with the marketplace, no matter what happens with our economy, there is apt to be some Americans that will not be able to afford to buy health insurance, for whatever the reason. They may be disabled. In this case with Medicare it is the elderly. Say they are over 65 and likely