

good one. I hope we could begin the debate on the Interior bill tomorrow, perhaps taking up the Federal aviation bill on Monday, but we will work with the majority to see that we have a full schedule and protect Senators who have plans for religious purposes tomorrow.

I have no objection.

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

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Democratic leader for his cooperation. I ask unanimous consent that during the consideration of H.R. 3662, the Interior appropriations bill, that no amendments relative to Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or Voyageur's National Park be in order prior to Tuesday, September 17, 1996.

Madam President, let me withhold that request.

Madam President, we do want to make sure that is cleared by a Senator that has a direct interest in it, and we will make a call right now. It would be my intent to honor this, but I will try to get a unanimous-consent agreement locked in while we are making calls.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 11, the Federal debt stood at \$5,219,273,550,936.86.

One year ago, September 11, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,962,944,000,000.

Five years ago, September 11, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,619,285,000,000.

Ten years ago, September 11, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,105,838,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, September 11, 1981, the Federal debt stood at \$980,009,000,000. This reflects an increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,239,264,550,936.86—during the 15 years from 1981 to 1996.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR MRS. ESTHER WERNER

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Esther Werner of Creve Coeur, MI. Mrs. Werner celebrated her 90th birthday on August 2, 1996. I join her family and friends in celebration of this momentous occasion, and in wishing her continued health and happiness in the years to come.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION KENNY HARRISON

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the accomplish-

ments of Kenny Harrison of Bridgeton, MO at the games of the XXVth Olympiad. Mr. Harrison won America's fourth track and field gold medal by jumping 18.09 meters in the triple jump. This jump, in addition to winning Olympic gold, also established a new U.S. and Olympic record. The State of Missouri, and the entire Nation, takes great pride in Mr. Harrison's record setting performance.

HONORING THE HELBIGS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of till death us do part seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Mr. Charles and Mrs. Dorothy Helbig of St. Charles, MO, who on September 21, 1996 will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Charles and Dorothy's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Will the distinguished Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee yield for a question?

Mr. LUGAR. Yes, I will yield for a question.

Mr. GRASSLEY. The Farm Credit System is the vital backbone of American agriculture providing needed financing for many components of agriculture. The FCS is regulated by the Farm Credit Administration. There has been a vacancy on the FCA Board since the resignation of Board member Gary Byrne on March 31, 1995. Under previous agreement with the President, the name of a highly qualified Iowan, Ann Jorgenson, was referred in August 1995 to the White House with the understanding that the President would send her name to the Senate for confirmation. To date, the White House has neglected to act on the nomination. This Senator feels that the lack of a full Board is very disruptive to the smooth operation of the Farm Credit System.

Can the Chairman share with the Senate any information which he may have on the nomination and whether or not the Senate will be able to act on it this Congress?

Mr. LUGAR. The Senator is correct that a vacancy has existed on the three-member Farm Credit Administration Board since March 31, 1995. The Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, sent the name of Ann Jorgenson to the President in June 1995 to fill a Republican vacancy at the Farm Credit Administration. The Committee has not received any notification from the White House regarding Ann Jorgenson's nomination. If the President does not formally nominate Ms. Jorgenson, the Committee and the Senate will be unable to act on the appointment this Congress and the Board will continue without its full complement of members.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I have personally known Ann Jorgenson for many years and I am very impressed with her accomplishments, her commitment to American agriculture, and her work and knowledge in the business world. She has developed business plans and goals, written software for farm accounting, spoken numerous times at agricultural seminars on various agriculture topics, and has authored a book on putting paperwork in its place. She also serves on board of the Farm Bureau Mutual Fund. She has an admirable record of public service to the State of Iowa, having served as a member of the board of regents, which oversees Iowa's three State universities. Currently, Ann is a board member of the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The list goes on extensively.

Once the administration formally nominates Ms. Jorgenson and the Agriculture Committee has an opportunity to review her record and qualifications, I am convinced that the Senator will conclude that she is a highly qualified person for the position.

Mr. LUGAR. I look forward to having the opportunity to examine her qualifications. Her reputation is an excellent one.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Would the Senator, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, join with me in urging the President to fill the vacancy on the Board of the Farm Credit System so that we may complete the confirmation process this Congress?

Mr. LUGAR. I join the Senator in urging the President to fill the vacancy on the FCS Board. The vacancy on the Board has existed for over a year now and the Board's daily oversight of the safety and soundness of the farm credit system would be greatly enhanced with a full Board.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that letters in support of Ann Jorgenson be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, June 28, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Nearly one year ago, then Majority Leader Senator Bob Dole sent to you the name of Ann Jorgenson to fill a

Republican vacancy at the Farm Credit Administration. Her name has yet to be sent to the Senate for confirmation. I strongly support her nomination and ask that you send her name to the Senate as soon as possible.

The Farm Credit Administration is facing significant issues with regard to the Farm Credit System. It can best address these issues with a full complement of members on its Board. Ann Jorgensen has the background and experience to deal with these issues knowledgeably and thoroughly. As a former member of the Iowa Board of Regents, business owner, current member of the Iowa Department of Economic Development Board, author, and farm wife, she would bring a wealth of much needed experience to the Farm Credit Administration.

I stand ready to assist you with this nomination.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
U.S. Senator.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Des Moines, Iowa, July 18, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am writing to highly recommend Ann Jorgensen of Vinton, Iowa, for a Republican position on the board of the Farm Credit Administration. It is my understanding that former Majority Leader Bob Dole sent you her name last year.

Ann Jorgensen is an individual I have called on many times to serve the State of Iowa. She is currently on one of our most important state boards, the Iowa Department of Economic Development board. She has also served on the Interstate Agricultural Grain Marketing Commission, the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Commission, the State Board of Regents, and the Iowa Arts Council. Her service in all of these capacities has been exemplary.

I am confident that Ann Jorgensen would be a fine addition to the board of the Farm Credit Administration as she has an extensive background in agriculture and agribusiness.

The Farm Credit Administration has a very important role in overseeing the Farm Credit System, which is a significant source of capital for rural America. As this board deals with some critical issues in the years ahead, it is important that the board have a full slate of members.

Ann Jorgensen has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

TERRY E. BRANSTAD,
Governor of Iowa.

NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, July 19, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the farmer members of the National Corn Growers Association, I urge you to send to the Senate the nomination of Ann Jorgensen of Iowa to serve on the Farm Credit Administration Board. The Board has been without a third member for more than a year. If the nomination does not proceed soon, it will not be possible to complete Senate confirmation before this Congress adjourns.

The Farm Credit Administration Board serves a critical role in regulating the Farm Credit System and ensuring an adequate and flexible flow of money into rural areas. This statutory responsibility will be ever more important as farmers and their lenders refine the skills necessary to manage both production and price risk.

Ann Jorgensen is especially qualified to make certain that the Farm Credit System achieves its statutory goal of making credit available to farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives and for rural residences. Her impressive resume includes a strong, personal background in production agriculture, business development, and trade, as well as, extensive experience in rural economic development. This unique combination is exactly the mix rural America needs to continue to share in the country's economic recovery.

We strongly urge you to nominate Ann Jorgensen as soon as possible, to restore the Farm Credit Administration Board to its full complement of three members.

Sincerely,

BILL NORTHEY,
President.

AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION,
St. Louis, MO, July 15, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The American Soybean Association respectfully urges you to nominate Ann Jorgensen of Iowa to fill the vacant position on the Farm Credit Administration Board. Unless this nomination is sent to the Senate soon, it will be impossible to complete the confirmation process before Congress adjourns.

The Farm Credit Administration Board plays a critical role in regulating the Farm Credit System and in ensuring adequate credit is available to production agriculture and other borrowers in rural America. These functions are particularly important during the current period of volatile commodity prices, as farmers, ranchers, and their lenders manage increased risk and finance future production costs.

We know Ann Jorgensen to be a highly qualified individual who would be a valuable member of the Farm Credit Administration Board. Her extensive background in production agriculture and rural economic development is ideally suited to the task of overseeing the Farm Credit System. Her experience and perspective would perfectly complement the qualifications of the other members of the Board.

The American Soybean Association strongly urges you to nominate Ann Jorgensen, and to bring the Farm Credit Administration Board up to its full complement of three members.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN LONG,
President.

IOWA SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION,
West Des Moines, IA, July 15, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I would like to take this opportunity to offer the support of the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) for the appointment of Ann Jorgensen to fill the vacant position on the three member board of the Farm Credit Administration.

Ann Jorgensen understands agricultural economics and possesses the entrepreneurial spirit that has built a successful business. Her many credentials include membership on the Board of Regents for the State of Iowa and numerous Iowa economic development boards. She is a community leader and a recognized volunteer. Additionally, Senators Grassley and Harkin support her nomination and are confident that she would be a credible candidate for Senate confirmation hearings.

ISA reaffirms its support for Mrs. Jorgensen, but would also like to commu-

nicate the need to have all positions filled on the Farm Credit Administration's Board. These are extremely volatile times for farmers and it is important financial institutions that are a part of the Farm Credit System have the direction to keep agriculture a successful industry.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to offer ISA's support for the appointment of Ann Jorgensen.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS P. LINDGREN,
President.

IOWA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
Des Moines, IA, July 29, 1996.

Hon. BILL CLINTON,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I would like to take this opportunity to offer support for the appointment of Ann Jorgensen of Garrison, Iowa, to fill the vacant position on the three-member board of the Farm Credit Administration.

This position has been vacant longer than it should be and is a concern of the agriculture community. Whatever the reason for this position not being filled it is more important than ever, because of the new farm bill and the environment that it will create, that a full board be in place.

Ann Jorgensen is an extremely talented and articulate person who has a broad experience base that would be helpful in this position. Number one, she is a successful farmer but also has served on many state boards that needed her excellent judgment abilities. Ann also has what I consider a critical skill needed in any form of business or government institution and that is common sense judgment.

I sincerely ask that you consider Ann for the board position. This position needs to be filled and the agriculture community will be well served to have Ann fill that position.

Sincerely,

ED WIEDERSTEIN,
President.

NORWEST BANK IOWA, N.A.,
Des Moines, IA, August 8, 1996.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: As you review the candidates to nominate for the Republican vacancy at the Farm Credit Administration, there is one name that should rise to the top of the nomination list. Ann Jorgensen, whose name was submitted to you a year ago by former Majority Leader Bob Dole, is one of Iowa's foremost agricultural leasers; she is a woman who has devoted her life to championing farm issues on the local, state and national levels.

Ann's credentials for this position speak for themselves. She is a farm owner, an agribusiness owner, an economic development leader, a renowned consultant and an author and columnist for agricultural publications. Ann is a true visionary who relies on her extensive experience in the ag industry to articulate, anticipate and analyze farm issues. Her established contacts, solid reputation and first-hand knowledge would make her an exceptional addition to the board of the Farm Credit Administration.

The Farm Credit Administration only stands to benefit from the addition of a member of Ann's caliber. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Warm regards,

H. LYNN HORAK.