

During his long career, Rhett served as chairman of the city of Huntsville Gas Utility Board; chairman of the city of Huntsville Water Utility Board; chairman of the Huntsville Hospital Foundation; chairman of the Randolph School Board of Trustees; and chairman of the board of governors of the Heritage Club.

In addition, he had served as president of the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce; the Huntsville Rotary Club; the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee; and the Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association. He was chairman of the board of control of Huntsville Hospital; the Madison County Board of Registrars; and the Marshall Space Flight Center Community Advisory Committee.

It is difficult to imagine any citizen serving his community with more energy, pride, and dedication than did Harry Rhett, Jr. His devotion to his community was total and unwavering.

As an avid athlete, hunter, and sportsman, he was the founder and master of the Mooreland Hunt, a local fox-hunting group. He was a graduate of Culver Military Academy; Washington and Lee University; and Harvard University business school. He served as an army officer in Europe during World War II.

Harry Rhett, Jr. was one of those rare individuals who truly embodied the unique ideals upon which our country was founded. He achieved great financial and personal success, yet served with humility and a spirit of generosity. His efforts and work contributed significantly to the tremendous growth of the Huntsville area during his life-time.

I extend my sincerest condolences to the Rhett family in the wake of its tremendous loss. I hope they, like most citizens of this area, will find solace in continuing to enjoy the fruits of Harry's labor, which are all around them, for many, many years to come.

HONORING THE EATONS FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, these are trying times for the family in America. Unfortunately, too many broken homes have become part of our national culture. It is tragic that nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce. The effects of divorce on families and particularly the children of broken families are devastating. In such an era, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "til death us do part" seriously and have successfully demonstrated the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity, to build a strong family. These qualities make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor the Ernest and Margie Eaton of Clinton, MO, who on March 3

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Ernest and Margie'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.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the Federal debt now exceeds \$5 trillion. Twenty years ago, in 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$629 billion, after 200 years of America's existence, including two world wars. After all of that, the total Federal debt, I repeat, was \$629 billion.

Then the big spenders really went to work and the interest on the debt really began to take off—and, presto, during the past 20 years the Federal debt has soared into the stratosphere, increasing by more than \$4 trillion in 2 decades—from 1976 to 1996.

So, Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, March 5, 1996, the Federal debt stood—down-to-the-penny—at \$5,016,462,295,493.85. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,040.91 as his or her share of that debt.

This enormous debt is a festering, escalating burden on all citizens and especially it is jeopardizing the liberty of our children and grandchildren. As Jefferson once warned, "to preserve [our] independence, we must not let our leaders load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude." Isn't it about time that Congress heeded the wise words of the author of the Declaration of Independence?

MS. BARBARA BALDWIN

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, last week Rhode Islanders learned some sad news. We learned that one of our community's leading and most respected activists is leaving our State for a new position in Tennessee. We will miss Barbara Baldwin, the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island for the last 9 years, when she leaves Rhode Island at the end of May.

It is often said that everyone in Rhode Island knows everyone else in Rhode Island. That's almost true—we are a small State and it is relatively easy to get to know people who become active in the State and in their communities. But Barbara made an immediate mark on Rhode Island when she arrived here in 1987. And since then she had led Planned Parenthood with dignity, serenity, courage, and energy. She is totally dedicated to ensuring quality health care to women, and is wholly committed to preserving reproductive rights.

Barbara has also been an important political adviser and friend to me over these last 9 years, and to many other

government officials and politicians. But mostly, she has been a leader for the women of Rhode Island, and has gained the respect of both those who share her views and those who don't.

Rhode Islanders will miss Barbara, and we wish her well in her move to Tennessee. But we want her to know that the door to our State will always be open to her, and we hope that some day she will return.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT SOARES UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, as President Soares, one of Portugal's greatest modern leaders, prepares to retire, I would like to offer my personal congratulations. President Soares is a good friend who has my admiration for all he has done to make Portugal a vibrant and democratic part of Europe. During the dark days of Portugal's authoritarian regime, President Soares demonstrated an enormous amount of courage. He was an active opponent of that rule—and for that he paid dearly. I particularly remember that when those dark days ended in 1974, President Soares returned to Portugal to help lead the new government. I followed his career closely in the ensuing years—when he served as foreign minister twice and prime minister three times before becoming President in 1986. I have deep regard for President Soares' leadership in the 1980's in preparing Portugal for entry into the European Community, and in more recent years, in ensuring that Portugal remains firmly planted in the European Union and NATO.

I have a huge respect for Portugal and her people, and have been fortunate to work with President Soares over the years. My State of Rhode Island has a large and vibrant Portuguese community.

Portugal is an important ally. Our two countries share a commitment to democracy, freedom, and peace—values which are important not only as we confront a changing Europe—but as we approach challenges in the Middle East and Africa. Portugal is a great friend of the United States, and it is in the spirit of this friendship that I pay tribute to President Soares, and wish him well in his retirement.

HOW MUCH FOREIGN OIL BEING CONSUMED BY UNITED STATES? HERE'S WEEKLY BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that, for the week ending March 1, the United States imported 6,329,000 barrels of oil each day, 3 percent more—169,000 barrels more—than the 6,160,000 barrels imported during the same period 1 year ago.

Americans now rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of their needs. There is no sign that this upward trend will abate.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S.

producers using American workers? The political primary season has forced the political and media establishment to take seriously American's deep-felt concern about economic insecurity and loss of jobs to foreign competition. It's about time they caught on. All it takes is a trip through North Carolina to see the scores of textile mills closed due to foreign competition to understand why Americans have a legitimate fear of losing their job or see their hard earned wages fall.

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity that will surely occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply, or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States.

TRIBUTE TO TRUDY VINCENT

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I rise to offer my warmest thanks, respect, and heartfelt congratulations to my legislative director, Trudy Vincent, who will leave my staff at the end of this week. For 3 years, in her second tour of duty in my office, Trudy has been the anchor of my legislative work, and deserves much of the credit for the legislative accomplishments of my office since 1993.

Although Trudy will be leaving my staff, she will not be leaving the Senate, and my office's loss is the gain of my colleague Senator BINGAMAN of New Mexico, who will undoubtedly grow to depend upon her much as I have.

Like many of the most gifted and successful of the staff members who serve this institution, Trudy first came here as a fellow through an academic program, having first pursued and succeeded in another demanding field. In her case, Trudy first attained a doctorate in psychology, then joined my office in 1987 as a legislative fellow, working on innovative education and health initiatives.

When her first tour of duty in my office ended after a year, Trudy joined the staff of her home State Senator, Senator MIKULSKI, rose to legislative director, and returned to my staff as legislative director in 1993. I have found her good sense, her wide knowledge, her broad network of friends and professional contacts, and her sense of humor to be of invaluable help in all that I do for the people of New Jersey and the Nation.

The most important attribute a Senator or legislative staffer can possess, I have found, is persistence and dedication. You have to be entrepreneurial, always looking for opportunities to move a good idea forward and never giving up when things look bleak. Trudy exemplifies these qualities. Her persistence and dedication has helped us move forward most of my urban initiatives of 1993, the funding for the high school student exchange with the republics of the former Soviet Union, student loan reform, several nomina-

tions, and very soon, I hope it will lead to final passage of my bill to prohibit new mothers from being discharged from the hospital before they or their babies are ready.

In addition to these qualities, there is an intangible between a Senator and a staff member. It is related to loyalty and knowledge, but it also is something more. It is the phenomenon of being confident that the staff member knows how to further the Senator's goals in a way that is consistent with the Senator's values and style. I've always felt that way about Trudy. I could truly leave it to her and know that it would be done as I would want it done. I guess I'm saying that at the core of a Senator-staff relation is trust. That's clearly the way it's been between us, for which I am lucky and very grateful.

I want finally to thank Trudy again, express my appreciation for all her long hours and hard work, and wish her all the best fortune as she continues to contribute to the workings of this democratic institution after I leave.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The Senator from Utah.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in adjournment for 1 minute, and that when the Senate reconvenes its morning hour be deemed to have expired.

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

Thereupon, the Senate adjourned until 11:12 a.m.; whereupon, the Senate at 11:13 a.m. reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. DEWINE].

Mr. BENNETT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

WHITewater DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND RELATED MATTERS—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 341, Senate Resolution 227 regarding the Special Committee on Whitewater.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SARBANES. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to calendar 341, Senate Resolution 227.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

Is there further debate?

Mr. MACK addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, we are here today primarily because the White House has not been dealing with the special committee in good faith. I know that there are those who would accuse this committee of conducting a political witch hunt in an election year. But I submit that there are legitimate and powerful reasons to be investigating Whitewater Development Corp. and all of the related matters.

At the outset, it should be made clear that the main reason this committee needs additional time is the abject failure of this administration to cooperate. Contrary to all of their public statements, I believe the White House has been actively engaged in a coverup. They have repeatedly refused to turn over relevant evidence and have often failed to remember key facts under oath.

To give just one example, Bruce Lindsey was asked on numerous occasions whether he had produced all relevant documents to the committee, and he insisted under oath that he had. In particular, the committee asked about any notes he might have taken during the November 5, 1994, meeting of the Whitewater defense team. That is the same meeting where William Kennedy took notes, and we almost had to go to court to obtain them. Last Friday—that is the very date the special committee's funding was set to expire—he turned over his clearly marked notes of the November 5 Whitewater defense team meeting.

The American people deserve better than that. Again, this is only one example—where Bruce Lindsey was asked over and over again whether he had taken notes during that November 5 meeting, and we were told over and over again that he had not. On the day this committee's funding expired, they turned over these notes of the meeting.

In my opinion, the White House has done everything in its power to hide the truth. That is why we are here asking for additional funds to continue the committee's work.

Mr. President, I suspect that over the next several hours we obviously will hear from both sides of the aisle on this. But on our side of the aisle, I expect that most of our Members who participated in these hearings will probably do as I have done; that is, to focus my attention on some specific areas where I focused my attention during the committee hearings. So my comments now will be somewhat focused on the behavior of the White House officials immediately after Vincent Foster's death.

The death of White House Deputy Counsel Vincent W. Foster, Jr., on July 20, 1993, marked the first time since Secretary of Defense James Forrestal died in 1949 that such a high-ranking