

money for their campaigns for national political office. That is how I always understood the law. That is the way I have conducted fundraising activities, in strict accordance with that interpretation, yet the committee's record is full of evidence that fundraising calls were made from the White House.

There are other issues of illegal activity which the committee has yet to fully explore. Recently, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York obtained guilty pleas from three individuals involved in the last Teamsters election. These individuals apparently will testify that the Democratic National Committee and the AFL-CIO were used in efforts to launder money from the union's treasury into the reelection of Ron Carey, the Teamsters' president. I am not here alleging that he knew of it or that he was a party to it. I am merely reciting what I know from the reports from the guilty pleas and other things occurring in that court.

The Democratic National Committee apparently entered into an agreement with the Teamsters to launder money in exchange for contributions to the party from members of the union.

We have heard a lot about the union's role in the last election, and I share the concern expressed by my colleagues. But it seems to me that we need to get to the bottom of the criminal allegations, not just change the law to deal with their political activity.

I would like to make one point about unions and their activities in the last election. We all know that unions spent at least \$35 million on issue ads in 44 congressional districts during the 1996 campaign. Compared to the unions, Republican groups spent a pittance. Citizens for Reform, a group which was created to counter the unions, spent \$2 million in 15 districts. The coalition, Americans Working for Real Change, spent \$5 million. The unions spent \$700,000 in 1 week for advertisements. This is their privilege. This is their right. I do not seek to limit them. I only seek to make sure that a balance is maintained between the exercise of that right and the exercise of rights by others. So the unions have decided, because the current law gives them an advantage, that they are able to take a portion of their money dues without consent and use these dues for political activities.

Some want to call the Lott amendment a poison pill. I believe the vote, if we do have one on that issue, is a vote for fairness and balance. I believe that all contributions and paid political speech ought to be voluntary.

According to some, the law related to fundraising on Federal property was designed to prevent Government officials from coercing political contributions from Federal employees. Should the same rule against political contributions being done without consent apply to everyone, businesses, unions, PAC's and all?

On both sides of this issue I have listened as attentively as I can. I think

this has been a very civilized debate, worthy of the institution of the Senate. But I have yet to hear anything that convinces me that passing this bill, which will erode free speech rights of candidates, parties and groups, is necessary to enhance our electoral process.

Clearly, the bill takes us in the wrong direction, away from the first amendment and from our free, fair and open electoral system that is the envy of the world.

I would like to make one last point. Everyone here recognizes the many problems we are addressing today stem from the fact that the Supreme Court struck down various provisions in the post-Watergate reforms that were passed in 1974 and upheld others. I wish to caution Senators that the McCain-Feingold bill, although earnest in its attempt to correct the errors of the past, fails to take heed of the history of reforms of the past and is destined to lead us in the wrong direction and on a course to make many of the same mistakes.

This bill contains a severability clause that essentially means if certain provisions of this bill are held unconstitutional, the remainder of the act shall not be affected by the rest of the holding. Although I do not agree with the approach in this bill, I do believe that those who will vote for this bill believe that it will somehow level the playing field. If that is their interest, I ask them to very carefully examine the consequences of the title VI severability clause. If the Supreme Court holds that the bright-line rule created by this bill is unconstitutional, which I believe they will, we will not only have succeeded in increasing the inequities between the haves and the have-nots, but we will have also created a Pandora's box, full of new problems.

I thank the Senate for its attention.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business, Friday, October 3, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,411,881,420,892.37. (Five trillion, four hundred eleven billion, eight hundred eighty-one million, four hundred twenty thousand, eight hundred and ninety-two dollars and thirty-seven cents)

One year ago, October 3, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,222,192,000,000. (Five trillion, two hundred twenty-two billion, one hundred and ninety-two million)

Twenty-five years ago, October 3, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$434,091,000,000 (Four hundred thirty four billion, ninety-one million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion (\$4,987,790,420,892.37) (Four trillion, nine hundred eighty seven billion, seven hundred ninety million, four hundred thousand, eight hundred ninety-two dollars and thirty seven cents) during the past 25 years.

A POETIC TRIBUTE TO TOBACCO GROWERS BY PEM PFISTERER CLARK

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, criticism of and attacks on the tobacco industry—and, by implication, tobacco growers—has become a sort of one-upmanship cottage industry among politicians who, in earlier days, scrambled to pay their respects to those engaged in growing tobacco and manufacturing it. The name of the game is "piling on" and the political types are doing it with gusto.

Last month, Mr. President, Dot Helms and I attended a meeting of the Burley and Dark Leaf Tobacco Association at Williamsburg. The distinguished speaker at the dinner was Fred Barnes, one of today's most respected journalists.

Presiding at the dinner was an impressive young lady, Pem Pfisterer Clark, general manager of the Stemming District Tobacco Association in Henderson, KY.

During the program, Ms. Clark recited a touching poem she had written about tobacco farmers. To those of us whose States produce tobacco, so heatedly maligned by its turncoat one-time friends, Pem Clark's tribute to these farmers was something that needed saying—and she said it well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Pem Clark's poem be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

TRIBUTE TO GROWERS

Ladies . . . gentleman . . .

My mission now tonight

Is to share from my perspective

My thoughts on this "Tobacco Fight".

I represent a group of folk

Who dedicate their lives

To producing the very plant

On which this industry survives.

Here's a billion dollar business

That we hold to our hearts,

That's sprouting from God's smallest seed.

Now, that's a very humble start!

It's not by chance or accident

That from the well-worked earth,

A rich and leafy plant springs forth

That boasts of quality and worth.

A farmer can't put on his crop

By tossing out some seeds.

Even a "city slicker" knows

That all that guy will grow are weeds.

The work is toil, the labor long.

He plants and hoes and sprays.

And weary, he goes in at night

And sighs, and bows his head and prays.

At this point he's done all he can;

Now it's not up to him.

A lot of what will happen now

Depends on Mother Nature's whim.

The drought will come, pests and disease.

It's like a game of craps.

The sun, the wind, the rain, the hail . . .

But farmers, see, are used to that.

Relief! The crop is made. It's good.

The first fight fought he wins.

His crop stands healthy in the field,

But now the real hard work begins.

The harvest is back-breaking work.

Good help is hard to find.

The farmer says his prayers again . . .

"No mold, house burn. Good cure, this time".

The curing season has been good
 He takes it from the barn.
 The second fight he also wins . . .
 His crop emerges safe from harm.
 Lovingly the leaves are handled.
 He prepares for the sale.
 These will serve to feed his family—
 These leaves hand-tied or in a bale.
 His legal crop goes to the floor
 And now the prayer that's prayed,
 "Oh God, please let demand be high,
 A good price given by the trade."
 And so he wins fight number three.
 He's paid for all he's done.
 He did his best and it paid off.
 He thinks this season's battles' won.
 WRONG!!! Now enter fight number four:
 His goose may well be cooked!
 In talks of politics and suits
 The farmers' fate is overlooked!
 That status doesn't last for long.
 Parties soon see the light.
 Leave out the guy who grows the plant?!?
 That's just plain dumb! And far from right!
 Now talks of settlement include
 The man who has the chore
 Of growing the tobacco plants,
 And so he wins fight number four.
 But he worries for his family.
 It's how his family's fed.
 The money from tobacco sales
 Buys shelter, clothes and bread.
 The plant the farmer nourishes . . .
 He tries to keep alive . . .
 There are those who want to kill it
 Watch if wither up and die
 Deep in his soul he wants to help
 This industry survive.
 And now he bows his head and pleads,
 "God help us win fight number five."—PEM
 PFISTERER CLARK, *Copyright pending.*

HONORING JEWEL AND RUDY RUSH ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. 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 Jewel and Rudy Rush of Rolla, MO, who on October 19, 1997, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Rushes' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

TRIBUTE TO LIFE CHOICES CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER IN JOPLIN, MO

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a most deserving and life-affirming ministry, the Life Choices Crisis Pregnancy Center in Joplin, Missouri. This ministry began

in 1990, and has provided a much-needed service to more than four thousand women and their families. Thanks to a strong commitment and dedication to life, they have saved at least 160 babies from abortion.

Many of the services are aimed specifically at young people. One example is a program that encourages abstinence and uses trained counselors who provide information and support for teens and their parents through the Center's 24-hour help line. Additionally, the Center provides free confidential counseling, basic medical services, and lifestyle assessments at its newly constructed facility.

America needs more organizations which, like Life Choices Crisis Pregnancy Center, encourage communities to help their own, rather than rely on government-funded programs for assistance. I ask that you join with me today in recognizing not only the achievements of this center, but also the compassionate individuals who give of themselves so selflessly, helping others in their time of need.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE CANCELLATION OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS OF DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AUTHORITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 71

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to section 1025 of Public Law 93-344, to the Committee on Appropriations, and to the Committee on the Budget.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Line Item Veto Act, I hereby cancel the dollar amounts of discretionary budget authority, as specified in the attached reports, contained in the "Military Construction Appropriations Act, 1998" (Public Law 105-45; H.R. 2016). I have determined that the cancellation of these amounts will reduce the Federal budget deficit, will not impair any essential Government functions, and will not harm the national interest.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 6, 1997.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 167. Concurrent resolution to correct a technical error in the enrollment of H.R. 2160.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2160) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

At 7:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2267) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conferences asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. ROGERS, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. REGULA, Mr. FORBES, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LIVINGSTON, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. SKAGGS, Mr. DIXON, and Mr. OBEY, as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3278. An act making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Pursuant to the order of August 4, 1997, the following measure was discharged and placed on the calendar:

S. 261. A bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 587. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to exchange certain lands located in Hinsdale County, Colorado (Rept. No. 105-96).

S. 588. A bill to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within the Arapaho National Forest and the White