

had a chance to thoroughly examine these issues.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I agree with the suggestion of the chairman of the Energy Committee.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the Finance Committee and I look forward to working with him.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I have the task of asking unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 24, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,336,557,573,448.51. (Five trillion, three hundred thirty-six billion, five hundred fifty-seven million, five hundred seventy-three thousand, four hundred forty-eight dollars and fifty-one cents)

One year ago, June 24, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,110,927,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred ten billion, nine hundred twenty-seven million)

Five years ago, June 24, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,941,032,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred forty-one billion, thirty-two million)

Ten years ago, June 24, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,293,521,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred ninety-three billion, five hundred twenty-one million)

Fifteen years ago, June 24, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,070,688,000,000. (One trillion, seventy billion, six hundred eighty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,265,869,573,448.51 (Four trillion, two hundred sixty-five billion, eight hundred sixty-nine million, five hundred seventy-three thousand, four hundred forty-eight dollars and fifty-one cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 20

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending June 20, the U.S. imported 7,630,000 barrels of oil each day, 301,000 barrels fewer than the 7,931,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the very few weeks that Americans imported less oil than the same week a year ago, Americans relied on foreign oil for 54.4 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo

in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? By U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 7,630,000 barrels a day.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1997

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last year, I stated on the Senate floor that "our country stands at a crossroads on the path it travels in relations among the different races and ethnic groups that make up the American people. Down one path is the way of mutual understanding and goodwill; the way of equal opportunity for individuals; the way of seriously and persistently addressing our various social problems as America's problems. * * * Down the other path is the way of mutual suspicion, fear, ill will, and indifference; the way of group rights and group preferences."

I am proud to stand today with my colleagues in the House and the Senate, and others who have worked so hard for the cause of opportunity, to announce the introduction of the Civil Rights Act of 1997. The act represents our best efforts to recommit the nation to the ideal of equal opportunity for every American—to emphasize that we must resist the temptation to define the nation's problems in narrow racial terms, and rather must roll up our sleeves and begin the hard work of dealing with our problems as Americans, and as fellow human beings.

Of course, our critics will imply that those of us who today reject divisive racial preferences and distinctions do so because we underestimate the social, economic, and discriminatory obstacles some Americans face. President Clinton, for example, told his audience in San Diego last week that "[t]he vast majority of [Californians who supported that state's Proposition 209] did it with a conviction that discrimination and isolation are no longer barriers to achievement." But that is just plain wrong.

To the contrary, last week in the Senate Judiciary Committee we heard from a panel of ordinary citizens who movingly told us of their experiences with discrimination in America. Among them was a Chinese-American mother from San Francisco, Charlene Loen, who told us how her young son Patrick was denied admission to an elite public magnet school, Lowell High School, because he is Chinese. The school district's efforts to ensure diversity among its students led it to employ a system of racial preference that had the effect of capping Chinese enrollment in many of its schools, forcing Chinese children to score much higher on entrance exams than children of other races. At virtually every

public school Ms. Loen approached, she was first asked whether Patrick was Chinese, and when learning that he was, would inform Ms. Loen that Patrick need not apply. The Chinese quota was in effect full. Ladies and gentlemen, that is not the promise of America.

There should be no question that discrimination indeed continues to deny opportunities to too many Americans. At the Judiciary Committee's recent hearing we heard from black Americans, white Americans, Asian Americans, and even a victim of an outrageous hate crime. But the question that we all must answer is whether one American's racial suffering should be valued above another's. It is a question that will only become more complicated and more urgent as our population grows ever more diverse.

As we in the Judiciary Committee now know, when we prefer individuals of one race, we must by definition discriminate against individuals of another. But America's great social divide can never be crossed until we begin the work of building a bridge of racial reconciliation. By saying today, with the introduction of this act, that the Federal Government stands for the principle that racial discrimination in all its forms is wrong, we hope to take a small step forward on the path to healing the nation's racial wounds by recognizing that every American is equal before the law.

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the House:

H.R. 1316. An act to amend chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the order of precedence to be applied in the payment of life insurance benefits.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of Public Law 94-304, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. HOYER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

House Concurrent Resolution 102. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the cost of government spending and regulatory programs should be reduced so that American families will be able to keep more of what they earn.

At 5:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1306) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify the applicability of host State laws to any branch in such State of an out-of-State bank.

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 passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2015. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(1) and (c) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

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

H.R. 1306. An act to amend Federal law to clarify the applicability of host State laws to any branch in such State of an out-of-State bank, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1902. An act to immunize donations made in the form of charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts from the antitrust laws and State laws similar to the antitrust laws.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1316. An act to amend chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the order of precedence to be applied in the payment of life insurance benefits; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

The following measure was read and referred as indicated:

House Concurrent Resolution 102. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the cost of government spending and regulatory programs should be reduced so that American families will be able to keep more of what they earn; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on June 19, 1997 he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 432. An act to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2322. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint and Alabama Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin Compact Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2323. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to death benefits from the Thrift Savings Plan, received on June 16, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2324. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled "Redress Provisions for Persons of Japanese Ancestry"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2325. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, a report of a rule entitled "Federal-Aid Highway Systems" (RIN2125-AD74), received on June 20, 1997; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2326. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a proposed amendment to a Privacy Act System of Records; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2327. A communication from the Acting Comptroller General of the U.S., transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the General Accounting Office issued in May 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2328. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to information to participants in the Thrift Savings Plan, received on June 20, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2329. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan by an employee, received on June 20, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2330. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, five rules relative to Airworthiness Directives (RIN2120-AA64) received on June 23, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2331. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, six rules relative to modification of class E airspace received on June 23, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2332. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule relative to North Carolina's scup commercial quota, received on June 23, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2333. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant

to law, a rule relative to lobster harvest in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands received on June 23, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2334. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Implementation Plan for Modernization of the National Weather Service for Fiscal Year 1998"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2335. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, five rules relative to safety and security zone regulations in Fort Lauderdale, Florida received on June 20, 1997; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services:

AIR FORCE

The following-named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Wallace W. Whaley, 1451

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, United States Code, section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Henry T. Glisson, 2048

ARMY

The following U.S. Army Reserve officers for promotion in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, United States Code, sections 14101, 14315 and 12203(a):

To be brigadier general

Col. Herbert L. Altshuler, 8024

The following-named officers for promotion in the Regular Army of the United States to the grade indicated under title 10, United States Code, sections 611(a) and 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Phillip R. Anderson, 3613
Brig. Gen. Burwell B. Bell III, 7158
Brig. Gen. Bryan D. Brown, 2565
Brig. Gen. Julian H. Burns, Jr., 6198
Brig. Gen. Michael T. Byrnes, 3271
Brig. Gen. John S. Caldwell, Jr., 8372
Brig. Gen. Reginald G. Clemmons, 8649
Brig. Gen. George F. Close, Jr., 3767
Brig. Gen. Carl H. Freeman, 0411
Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Inge, 8482
Brig. Gen. Phillip R. Kensinger, Jr., 0022
Brig. Gen. Donald L. Kerrick, 7369
Brig. Gen. Larry J. Lust, 3201
Brig. Gen. John J. Marcello, 0589
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Maude, 3591
Brig. Gen. Dan K. McNeill, 4203
Brig. Gen. Paul T. Mikolashek, 2507
Brig. Gen. Mary E. Morgan, 3594
Brig. Gen. Bruce K. Scott, 8736
Brig. Gen. Jerry L. Sinn, 7044
Brig. Gen. James R. Snider, 6531
Brig. Gen. Edward Soriano, 3068
Brig. Gen. Julian A. Sullivan, Jr., 0245
Brig. Gen. John D. Thomas, Jr., 4220
Brig. Gen. Howard J. von Kaenel, 8603
Brig. Gen. William S. Wallace, 1708
Brig. Gen. William E. Ward, 9000
Brig. Gen. David S. Weisman, 2064