

One year ago, January 29, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$4,987,704,000,000.

Five years ago, January 29, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,799,219,000,000.

Ten years ago, January 29, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,222,608,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, January 29, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,038,379,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,281,196,822,990.65) during the past 15 years.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL TSONGAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I stand here today to pay tribute to Paul Tsongas, one of the most courageous men and of the greatest humanitarians that I have had the honor of serving with in the U.S. Senate.

Paul Tsongas' work for his fellow man did not start nor stop here in Washington. Before he even dreamed of running for elected office, he donated his time to the Peace Corps, serving in Ethiopia and the West Indies.

But whether it was Ethiopia or Washington, DC, Paul Tsongas left his mark wherever he went.

In his hometown of Lowell, MA, one only needs to look at the Lowell National Historical Park to realize what he meant to his fellow citizens of that historical New England town.

He only served in the Senate for one term. But in just his second year, he led the efforts to pass the Alaska Lands Act of 1980 which has been recognized as one of the most important pieces of conservation legislation in history.

When diagnosed with lymphoma, he left the Senate to spend more time with his family. But he did not give in to his cancer. He fought it with the tenacity that those of us who knew him would only come to expect.

After undergoing experimental surgery to beat the cancer, he felt even more compelled to donate his life to helping his fellow citizens. One person he helped was my close friend Bill Gray. Bill, suffering from cancer, was constantly encouraged and cheered by Paul.

As we all remember, his remarkable run for President as an advocate for a balanced budget in 1992 helped shape America's political agenda.

After contributing to the campaign in a losing effort, he co-founded the Concord Coalition to advocate a balanced budget. Since then, the deficit has been cut in half and the Concord Coalition has become one of the most well respected bipartisan organizations in Washington.

Paul Tsongas will be remembered here in Washington and in his hometown of Lowell not only for his work as a legislator but for his work as a father, a husband, and a humanitarian.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Niki, and his daughters Ashley, Katina, and Molly.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION: HERE'S WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, one troubling aspect of our determining national security is the manner in which the United States has become more and more deeply dependent upon foreign countries to supply the bulk of our energy needs for the American people.

I was holding hearings on this perilous situation a decade ago when I was chairman of the Agriculture Committee; and again this past Congress in my present capacity as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The administration does acknowledge that this is a national security concern, but, the administration has done precisely nothing about U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending January 24, the U.S. imported 7,840,000 barrels of oil, 945,000 barrels more than the 6,895,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

To put it another way, Americans relied on foreign oil for 54.7 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.

Which raises the inevitable questions: is anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians would do well to ponder the economic calamity certain 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 United States—now 7,840,000 barrels a day.

Mr. President, as I say, I shall continue to report to the Senate—and to the American people—on a regular basis regarding the increasingly dangerous U.S. dependency on foreign oil.

CPSC CHAIRMAN ANN BROWN BRINGS CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY MESSAGE TO NEVADANS

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, last month U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman, Ann Brown, came to Nevada to deliver her vital safety messages to my constituents in Las Vegas and Reno. Her timely visit, just before the holidays, when many people are preparing their homes for visits by friends and relatives, reminded the citizens of my State of the practical things they can do to keep their homes safe.

In Las Vegas, we visited the home of Ms. Lori Black. Lori and her husband Mike are the parents of eight children. As we toured their home with Lori and her youngest daughter Leslie Mika and oldest daughter Ann, Chairman Brown reviewed the CPSC's baby safety

checklist and found that they had done an excellent job of making their home safe for children.

In Reno, we visited the home of Lisa and Scott Anderson and their daughter Lyndsey Sue. There, Chairman Brown was able to point out that their baby crib passed the soda can test. She demonstrated that a soda can is useful to measure the spaces between the slats in a baby's crib. If the soda can cannot go through the slats, then the crib is baby safe.

Chairman Brown also demonstrated the importance of clipping the loop at the end of venetian blind cords. She told us in the past 14 years, 173 children had strangled in the loops of curtain and blind cords, but that as a result of a voluntary agreement she secured from the blind cord industry, manufacturers are now installing safety tassels at the end of their cords. She commended the Andersons for making their home safe for a baby by putting all medicines on an upper shelf far from a baby's curious hands and having no baby clothes with strings or cords.

In both Las Vegas and Reno, the homes contained smoke alarms, but lacked carbon monoxide detectors. Chairman Brown emphasized to both families the necessity of these devices. Every year, about 200 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning, and thousands are treated in hospital emergency rooms. With the installation of CO detectors and annual appliance inspections, these deaths and injuries can be prevented.

I want to commend Chairman Brown for her valuable work promoting consumer product safety in Nevada and across the country. The baby safety program she initiated is a model of the way business and government can work together as partners to advance the public interest.

The Gerber Products Co. underwrote the costs of printing the materials for the baby safety program. This has allowed the CPSC to make the baby safety checklist and other helpful materials available to thousands of people throughout the country.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is a small agency with a big mission—to keep families safe in their homes and at play. It is also one of the taxpaying public's best bargains in government. CPSC's \$42.5 million budget, about 16 cents per capita, helps to attack the \$200 billion in annual societal costs and about \$30 billion in direct medical costs. Thus, every dollar appropriated to CPSC has the potential to address about \$5,000 in societal costs and about \$600 in direct medical costs. As one example, the CPSC's work in making sure baby cribs are safe and removing unsafe cribs from the market has reduced crib-related deaths from 200 annually to less than 50 deaths per year. That one project alone saves society nearly \$1 billion a year—or almost 25 times the CPSC's current annual budget.

But the CPSC is most concerned with saving lives and reducing injuries and

it is working even now on actions to reduce those crib-related deaths to an even lower figure.

I would like to thank Chairman Brown for bringing her lifesaving message to the citizens of Nevada and to commend her for her excellent leadership of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. I urge my colleagues to share the CPSC's baby safety checklist with the new parents and grandparents in their States.

I ask unanimous consent that the baby safety checklist be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BABY SAFETY CHECKLIST

BEDROOM

Put your baby to sleep on her back or side in a crib with a firm, flat mattress and no soft bedding underneath her.

Make sure your baby's crib is sturdy and has no loose or missing hardware.

Never place your baby's crib or furniture near window blind or curtain cords.

BATHROOM

Keep medicines and cleaning products in containers with safety caps and locked away from children.

Always check bath water temperature with your wrist or elbow before putting your baby in to bathe.

Never, ever, leave your child alone in the bathtub or near any water.

KITCHEN

Don't leave your baby alone in a highchair; always use all safety straps.

Use your stove's back burners and keep pot handles turned to the back of the stove.

Lock household cleaning products, knives, matches, and plastic bags away from children.

LIVING AREAS

Install smoke detectors on each floor of your home, especially near sleeping areas; change the batteries each year.

Use safety gates to block stairways and safety plugs to cover electrical outlets.

Keep all small objects, including tiny toys and balloons, away from young children.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Good to see the Senator presiding this afternoon. Shall we begin the closing process, now, Mr. President? Would that be all right?

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

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.)

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

Th following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-29. A petition from a citizen of the State of Mississippi relative to the eastern boundary of the State of Mississippi; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 37. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. THURMOND, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. Res. 38. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. Res. 39. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business, without amendment:

S. Res. 40. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Special Committee on Aging, without amendment:

S. Res. 41. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

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

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Maxwell C. Bailey, 0000

Brig. Gen. William J. Dendinger, 0000

Brig. Gen. Dennis G. Haines, 0000

Brig. Gen. Charles R. Henderson, 0000

Brig. Gen. Charles R. Holland, 0000

Brig. Gen. Silas R. Johnson, Jr., 0000

Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Keck, 0000

Brig. Gen. Rodney P. Kelly, 0000

Brig. Gen. Ronald P. Keys, 0000

Brig. Gen. David R. Love, 0000

Brig. Gen. Earl W. Mabry, II, 0000

Brig. Gen. Richard C. Marr, 0000

Brig. Gen. William F. Moore, 0000

Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Neary, 0000

Brig. Gen. Susan L. Pamerleau, 0000

Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Pelak, Jr., 0000

Brig. Gen. Gerald F. Perryman, Jr., 0000

Brig. Gen. Roger R. Radcliff, 0000

Brig. Gen. Richard H. Roellig, 0000

Brig. Gen. Lansford E. Trapp, Jr., 0000

Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Waskow, 0000

Brig. Gen. Charles J. Wax, 0000

Brig. Gen. John L. Woodward, Jr., 0000

Brig. Gen. Michael K. Wyrick, 0000

The following-named officer for appointment to the grade of general in the United

States Air Force while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, 0000

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

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. James L. Jones, 0000

The following-named Army Competitive Category officer for promotion in the Regular Army of the United States to the grade of major general under the provisions of title 10, U.S.C., sections 611(a) and 624(c):

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Larry G. Smith, 0000

The following-named Army Competitive Category officer for promotion in the Regular Army of the United States to the grade of brigadier general under the provisions of title 10, U.S.C., sections 611(a) and 624(c):

To be brigadier general

Col. Mitchell M. Zais, 0000

The following-named officer for appointment in the U.S. Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Brig. Gen. Martin R. Steele, 0000

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services, I report favorably 18 nomination lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy which were printed in full in the RECORD of January 7, 1997, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators:

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

(The nominations ordered to lie on the Secretary's desk were printed in the RECORD January 7, 1997, at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

In the Air Force there are 12 promotions to the grade of lieutenant colonel and below (list begins with Samuel R. Bakalian, Jr.) (Reference No. 43)

In the Army there are 5 promotions to the grade of major (list begins with Robert J. Metz) (Reference No. 44)

In the Army there are 16 promotions to the grade of colonel (list begins with Owen H. Black) (reference No. 45)

In the Army there is 1 promotion to the grade of major (Randel D. Matney) (Reference No. 46)

In the Army there are 6 promotions to the grade of colonel and below (list begins with Ronald P. Turnicky) (Reference No. 47)

In the Army there are 2 promotions to the grade of lieutenant colonel (list begins with John E. Rueth) (Reference No. 48)

In the Army there is 1 appointment to the grade of colonel (Phillip J. Todd) (Reference No. 49)

In the Army there is 1 promotion to the grade of lieutenant colonel (Emmanuel M. Chiaparas) (Reference No. 50)

In the Army there are 5 appointments to the grade of lieutenant colonel and below (list begins with Benje H. Boedeker) (Reference No. 51)