

these symptoms should make an appointment with a hearing professional.

Straining to understand conversations.

Misunderstanding or needing to have things repeated.

Turning up TV or radio volume to a point where others complain.

Having constant ringing or buzzing in the ears.

Measuring sound

The loudness of sound is measured in units called decibels. Experts agree that continued exposure to noise above 85 decibels eventually will harm hearing. The scale increases logarithmically, meaning that the level of perceived loudness doubles every 10 decibels.

	Decibels
Softest audible sound:	0
Normal conversation:	40-60
City traffic noises:	80
Rock concert:	110-120
Sound becomes painful:	125
Jet plane:	140

Source: International Hearing Society, League for the Hard of Hearing and National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, March 9, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,650,748,864,597.49 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty billion, seven hundred forty-eight million, eight hundred sixty-four thousand, five hundred ninety-seven dollars and forty-nine cents).

One year ago, March 9, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,523,019,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-three billion, nineteen million).

Five years ago, March 9, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,542,638,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred forty-two billion, six hundred thirty-eight million).

Ten years ago, March 9, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,740,636,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred forty billion, six hundred thirty-six million).

Fifteen years ago, March 9, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,464,624,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred sixty-four billion, six hundred twenty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,186,124,864,597.49 (Four trillion, one hundred eighty-six billion, one hundred twenty-four million, eight hundred sixty-four thousand, five hundred ninety-seven dollars and forty-nine cents) during the past 15 years.

CONFIRMATION OF MONTIE DEER TO HEAD INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the confirmation by the Senate last night of Mr. Montie Deer to become Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission—the federal regulatory body overseeing certain Indian gaming activities nationwide.

After a hearing in February of this year, the Committee on Indian Affairs reported Mr. Deer to the full Senate. Mr. Deer is a qualified and dedicated public servant who most recently was the United States Attorney in Kansas.

Since 1988, Indian gaming has become a source of much-needed revenue for Indian tribal governments to provide

jobs, services and frankly, hope, where there is not much. There are now some 185 tribes operating some form of gaming operations, with annual revenues of nearly \$7 billion.

The National Indian Gaming Commission was created 11 years ago. This three-member agency has the responsibility to monitor and regulate certain forms of gaming conducted on Indian lands. The NIGC has the authority to approve management contracts; conduct background investigations; approve tribal gaming ordinances; and review and conduct audits of the books and records of Indian gaming operations.

The NIGC also has the authority and the responsibility to enforce violations of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, NIGC regulations and approved tribal gaming ordinances. Those involved with Indian gaming understand the need for a strong, effective Commission—one that protects the integrity of games offered by tribes. As we did last session, the Committee on Indian Affairs will soon consider legislation to strengthen the Commission and ensure it has the resources it needs to fulfill its obligations.

A strong Commission is meaningless without strong leadership and last night the Senate acted to ensure that strong and effective leadership will be the order of the day.

DECEPTIVE MAIL PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I'm here to announce my strong support of Senator COLLINS' bill S. 335, the "Deceptive Mail Prevention and Enforcement Act." I chose to be an original co-sponsor of this bill after hearing from several constituents who were confused, irritated, and even outraged by the deceptive language that is all too often found in sweepstakes and other promotional mailings.

I think every one of us has received at least a few junk mailings which brazenly inform us that we have just won millions of dollars or that we are about to receive a car, a luxury cruise, or some other prize that sounds too good to be true. Well, the sad truth is that it almost always IS too good to be true.

To many of us, these promotional mailings represent nothing more than a minor annoyance and are easily tossed into the garbage without a second thought. But for many others, these mailings are nothing more than a cruel hoax, a trap designed to play on the hopes and dreams of trusting folks who were raised in a time when most people meant what they said and said what they meant.

As an example of the misleading and downright dangerous content found in many of these mailings, I'd like to read into the record a portion of a letter that was sent to me last year by a constituent of mine who resides in Columbia Falls, Montana. This gentleman writes,

My father is a resident in a nursing home. He is 84, and suffers from mild dementia ag-

gravated by high-powered medications which treat his incessant headaches. (The magazine he subscribes to) endlessly sends him these misleading and deliberately-designed "You've Won!!!" bulletins that he cannot understand except to believe fervently that he's just got to go pick up his check for hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars.

I believe these kinds of letters are deliberately designed to prey on the infirmities of old people, and of course get them to sign things that obligate them to free trials and unneeded products. Every episode brings my father increased stress, more headaches, and the need for additional medication. I am sure there are hundreds of thousands of people like Dad who want nothing to do with these phony promotions, but who can't get the mailers to remove them from the lists. Many, like Dad, don't have the daily clarity of thought to deal with mass-mailed deceptive come-ons like this.

Mr. President, I believe that the Deceptive Mail Prevention and Enforcement Act will go a long way towards preventing this kind of abuse of our senior citizens and other trusting individuals. Senator COLLINS' bill would not only establish strict new standards for honesty and disclosure in promotional mailings, but would provide strong new financial penalties for those who continue to violate these standards. It is my hope that the Committee on Governmental Affairs will be able to approve this legislation quickly, on a bi-partisan basis, so that we can bring an end to this plague of deceptive sweepstakes mailings which prey on our most vulnerable citizens.

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 Committee on the Judiciary.

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

REPORT CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the

President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency declared with respect to Iran on March 15, 1999, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 1999, to the *Federal Register* for publication. This emergency is separate from that declared on November 14, 1979, in connection with the Iranian hostage crisis and therefore requires separate renewal of emergency authorities. The last notice of continuation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 6, 1998.

The factors that led me to declare a national emergency with respect to Iran on March 15, 1995, have not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including support for international terrorism, its efforts to undermine the Middle East peace process, and its acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force the broad programs I have authorized pursuant to the March 15, 1995, declaration of emergency.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 10, 1999.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:27 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. 45. Concurrent resolution providing for the use of the catafalque situated in the crypt beneath the Rotunda of the Capitol in connection with memorial services to be conducted in the Supreme Court Building for the late honorable Harry A. Blackmun, former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRAMM, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 576. An original bill to provide for improved monetary policy and regulatory reform in financial institution management and activities, to streamline financial regulatory agency actions, to provide for improved consumer credit disclosure, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-11).

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 494. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the medicaid program (Rept. No. 106-13).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 96. A bill to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems related to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of that year's date (Rept. No. 106-10).

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 92. A bill to provide for biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government (Rept. No. 106-12).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BREAUX (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 572. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from issuing regulations dealing with hybrid transactions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 573. A bill to provide individuals with access to health information of which they are a subject, ensure personal privacy with respect to health-care-related information, impose criminal and civil penalties for unauthorized use of protected health information, to provide for the strong enforcement of these rights, and to protect States' rights; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 574. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 575. A bill to redesignate the National School Lunch Act as the "Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 576. An original bill to provide for improved monetary policy and regulatory reform in financial institution management and activities, to streamline financial regulatory agency actions, to provide for improved consumer credit disclosure, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 577. A bill to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. 578. A bill to ensure confidentiality with respect to medical records and health care-related information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BYRD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DODD, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KYL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. HELMS, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 579. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NICKLES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. MACK, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 580. A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the Agency for Healthcare Policy and Research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 581. A bill to protect the Paoli and Brandywine Battlefields in Pennsylvania, to authorize a Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 582. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement for the construction and operation of the Gateway Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHAFEE (by request):

S. 583. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize programs for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 584. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive recoupment under the medicaid program of certain tobacco-related funds received by a State if a State uses a portion of such funds for tobacco use prevention and health care and early learning programs; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MACK (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. Res. 60. A resolution recognizing the plight of the Tibetan people on the fortieth anniversary of Tibet's attempt to restore its independence and calling for serious negotiations between China and the Dalai Lama to achieve a peaceful solution to the situation in Tibet; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BREAUX (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 572. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from issuing regulations dealing with hybrid transactions; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBPART F OF INTERNAL REVENUE CODE

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, today Mr. MACK and I are again introducing legislation to place a permanent moratorium on the Department of the