

addresses or that we are concerned about, in any event.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Isn't that the case? That is why you find the extremes of tort law provision in here, and joint and several? The drive really is not to take care of the Y2K problem but to take care of what they call the lawyer problem in business. It has brought about the most responsible production in the entire world. We have quality production. We have safe articles on the market. On product liability and everything else, they have been coming after us for 20 years. Now they have all joined together, of all people not to hurt, just injured individuals with bad back cases like you and I have handled, but on the contrary, little small businesses, individual doctors who have to have a computer and have to keep up with their surgery and everything else of that kind.

I cite that because that is the testimony we had before the Commerce Committee. An individual doctor, in 1996, bought a computer. They bragged how it was going to last for 10 years and be Y2K compliant. And instead of being Y2K compliant, it was not. He asked for it to be repaired. He went twice to do it. They told him, you might have bought it for \$16,000, but it is going to cost you \$25,000. He didn't have the \$25,000 to make it compliant. He finally brought a lawsuit, and the computer industry on the Internet picked it up and before long he had \$17,000 against this particular supplier. They came around immediately and said: We will do it for free for everybody and pay the lawyers' fees.

That is what we are trying to avoid. But I do congratulate the Senator on his very cogent analysis and commonsensical approach and experienced judgment that he has rendered here this afternoon on this particular issue.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I paid attention to the exchange. The Senator from North Carolina was not here. The Senator from South Carolina was here when we fought for 10 years on a little item called aircraft product liability. I know the Senator from South Carolina fought viciously against that. The whole world was going to collapse if we gave an 18-year period of repose to aircraft manufacturers for products they built and manufactured.

Now there are 9,000, at least, new employees, and we are building the best piston driven aircraft in the world, thanks to that legislation.

Ask any of the owners of those aircraft companies and those people who are working there. It is because we finally passed that bill over the objections of the American Trial Lawyers Association which fought it for 10 years.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Will the distinguished Senator yield?

Mr. MCCAIN. I will not.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 27, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,596,529,776,391.98 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-six billion, five hundred twenty-nine million, seven hundred seventy-six thousand, three hundred ninety-one dollars and ninety-eight cents).

One year ago, April 27, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,507,607,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred seven billion, six hundred seven million).

Five years ago, April 27, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,562,363,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred sixty-two billion, three hundred sixty-three million).

Ten years ago, April 27, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,754,734,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred fifty-four billion, seven hundred thirty-four million).

Fifteen years ago, April 27, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,485,189,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-five billion, one hundred eighty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,111,340,776,391.98 (Four trillion, one hundred eleven billion, three hundred forty million, seven hundred seventy-six thousand, three hundred ninety-one dollars and ninety-eight cents) during the past 15 years.

THE NORTHEASTERN DAIRY COMPACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to express my support for a bill that was introduced yesterday by Senator JEFFORDS—the Northeastern and Southern Dairy Compact. This bill would reauthorize the Northeastern Dairy Compact and grant the consent of Congress for a Southern Dairy Compact. The Southern Dairy Compact, which has been passed by Alabama and 10 other southeastern States, authorizes an interstate Compact Commission to take whatever measures are necessary to assure customers of an adequate local supply of fresh fluid milk while encouraging the continued viability of dairy farming within the region encompassing the compact States.

The current milk marketing order pricing system does not adequately account for regional differences in the costs of producing milk; furthermore, the Federal milk marketing order system establishes only minimum prices for milk. Due to these inconsistencies in milk prices, surplus milk is flooding the southeast and shutting down the family dairy farmer. By design, the Federal program relies on State regulation to account for regional differences. However, milk usually crosses State lines, so courts have ruled that individual States do not have the authority to regulate milk prices under the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. To account for these regional price differences, states can gain regulatory authority by entering into a compact. States are now joining these compacts to maintain their dairy

industry and are asking us to approve of the legislation they have already passed in their respective states. The support at the State level has been overwhelming and unanimous and I am hopeful this body will adopt these compacts unanimously as well.

The compact benefits everyone. Farmers are assured of more stable milk prices, thereby affording them the opportunity for better planning and recovery of production costs. Consumers will benefit as prices for fluid milk stabilize in the supermarket. According to the USDA and GAO accounting figures, there was a 40 percent increase in the market price of fluid milk between 1985 and 1997. According to the Office of Management and Budget, the compact established in the Northeast in 1996 increased the income of dairy farmers by 6 percent while maintaining prices to the consumer at 5 cents/gallon below the national average price for milk. In addition, OMB found no adverse effect on states outside of the compact. The compact is a win-win piece of legislation.

Dairy farming is an important industry in my State of Alabama, and I am a strong supporter of the family farmer. Their hard work and dedication is at the heart of the greatness of this nation. In Alabama, there are more than 2,000 employees in the dairy industry supporting a \$48 million payroll. Last year, the dairy industry in Alabama generated a total of \$204 million in economic activity. However, recent production capacity has deteriorated and further decreases may push production past the point of no return. From 1995 to 1998, milk production in Alabama decreased by 26 million pounds. The establishment of the dairy compact will ensure fair prices to farmers so that they can maintain a profitable level of milk production. The creation of a compact will bring stability to an important industry in Alabama and all over the Southeast. Consumers will be assured of fair prices and farmers will be confident in their production decisions.

The States have voiced their concerns. The States have developed a solution. It is now our responsibility to stamp our approval onto the compacts which have been passed in States throughout the Northeast and Southeast.

FUELS REGULATORY RELIEF ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I stand in support of S. 880, Fuels Regulatory Relief Act, to provide relief for small businesses and to increase security of information from potential terrorists. This bill will specifically exclude toxic flammable fuels from Section 112 of the Clean Air Act which requires businesses provide public information on stored flammable fuels and how they would respond to emergencies should a disaster occur.

When the Clean Air Act was amended in 1990, Congress required the Environmental Protection Agency, under Section 112, to provide public information on a list of 100 substances which might cause injury or death to humans or adverse effects to the environment in an accident. EPA added flammable fuels to this list of 100 substances. This means that people who store and distribute flammable fuels are required to provide public information about their operations and how they would respond to an accident. These Risk Management Plans provide information on hazards associated with the fuels, safety measures and maintenance, and a worst-case scenario with an emergency response plan. This detailed information, although intended to provide citizens near a fuel facility knowledge about their local risks, also provide dangerous information to potential terrorists. The worst-case scenario information especially could provide potential terrorists with valuable information about how to destroy a flammable fuel facility.

I recognize the constant struggle between providing public access to and security protections of information about flammable fuels. However, given that public safety is adequately protected through existing federal laws and state building and fire codes, I believe no further requirements are needed. Also people who store flammable fuels are very safety conscious given the unstable nature of the product they work with. The safety record on the storage of flammable fuels is good and demonstrates that current regulatory requirements are adequate. Without any clear problem of the existing framework of protections, I do not see why these substances should be further regulated under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

By regulating flammable fuels under this provision of the Clean Air Act, fuel distributors might be hurt. For example, distributors might reduce their storage capacity of flammable fuels affecting their ability to meet local customer demands. Also if businesses and farmers reduce their stored levels of flammable fuels, fuel switching might be encouraged further adversely affecting distributors. This could limit the flexibility and health of these small businesses and farmers. Basically, it would ensure that the "Hank Hills" of the world (a character on the Fox network who is a propane small businessman) are not put out of business.

Thus, I trust my colleagues will rise with me to support this bill to provide relief for small businesses and farmers struggling to survive while ensuring security against disclosure of explosive information to potential terrorists.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:01 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1034. An act to declare a portion of the James River and Kanawha Canal in Richmond, Virginia, to be nonnavigable waters of the United States for purposes of title 46, United States Code, and the other maritime laws of the United States.

H.R. 1554. An act to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, and the Communications Act of 1934, relating to copyright licensing and carriage of broadcast signals by satellite.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 801(b) of the Public Law 100-696, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina and Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1034. An act to declare a portion of the James River and Kanawha Canal in Richmond, Virginia, to be nonnavigable water of the United States for purposes of title 46, United States Code, and the other maritime laws of the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 22. Joint resolution to reauthorize, and modify the conditions for, the consent of Congress to the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact and to grant the consent of Congress to the Southern Dairy Compact.

The following bill was read the first and second times and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1554. An act to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, and the Communications Act of 1934, relating to copyright licensing and carriage of broadcast signals by satellite.

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-2713. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Gulf War veterans; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2714. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Report on Theater Missile Defense Architecture Options in the Asia-Pacific Region; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2715. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Federally Sponsored Research on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2716. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission transmitting, pursuant to law, the re-

port of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices of Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines" (Docket No. RM96-1-011; Order No. 587-K) received on April 22, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2717. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Science, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety of Accelerator Facilities" (O 420.2) received on April 7, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2718. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quality Assurance" (O 414.1) received on April 7, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2719. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Field Management, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Life Cycle Asset Management" (O 430.1A) received on April 7, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2720. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Clean Coal Technology Demonstration Program, Program Update 1998" for the period July 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2721. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, proposed legislation entitled "Comprehensive Electricity Competition Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2722. A communication from the Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Agency's implementation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Land Withdrawal Act for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2723. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, proposed legislation relative to the Home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Historic Site; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2724. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Safeguards and Security, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Firearms Qualification Courses Manual" [M 473.2-1] received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2725. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Multiple State Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plans and Regulatory Programs—Technical Amendment" [MCRCC-01]; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2726. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the summary of proposed and enacted rescissions for fiscal years 1974 through 1998; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, and to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-2727. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "25