

nonagricultural manufacturing products and services that we can send to that country as a result of this agreement.

Remember, the first misconception I cited is that some believe if China does not get permanent normal trading relations, that it is going to keep China from joining the World Trade Organization. But if China does get in the World Trade Organization, she will have a fairly free trade relationship with 137 other countries. And then we will not have that same agreement with China. It will be a lose-lose situation for America.

The second misconception I want to address is that even if China does get into the World Trade Organization, it will not mean that much right away for American manufacturers and American agriculture.

That is something that could not be further from the truth because we are going to reap immediate benefits from China having normal trading relations with us. As well, with China being a member of the World Trade Organization, we will benefit from that relationship with China. Because we are also in the WTO, we will benefit from what happens with the increased trade that results from that.

The fact is, China is not only a large economy, it also happens to be a very dynamic economy. Because they have made economic reforms there, China's leaders have sparked an economic renewal that has led to growth rates of 7 to 10 percent every year of the last decade, easily dwarfing the rates of our own superheated economy in the United States.

China's economy has grown 7 to 10 percent. Quite frankly, I do not know whether they want to admit this, but China's economy has to grow at least 5 percent for them to make room for all the young people coming into the workforce.

Any way you look at it—the 5 percent they have to have to keep people employed or the 7 to 10 percent they have had in recent years—there is a lot of new prosperity in China. As a consequence of this, China is buying a great deal of everything, especially agriculture products.

But because about one-third of China's economic activity is generated and controlled by state-owned enterprises, China often manipulates its markets in a way that harms its trading partners. This agreement we have with China takes care of this problem. I would like to give you an example. It is one that is well known to the soybean farmers of my own State of Iowa.

In 1992, China soybean oil consumption shot up from about 750,000 metric tons to 1.7 million metric tons. Keeping pace with this increased new demand, soybean oil imports also more than doubled.

In order to keep up with surging domestic demand, China imported more soybeans and soybean meal, much of it from the United States, and, in fact,

much of it from my State of Iowa—the leading producer of soybeans of the 50 States.

When China's soybean imports hit their peak in 1997, soybean meal in the United States was trading at an average base price of about \$240 per ton. This meant for a while farmers were getting a lot better price than they are now for soybeans, sometimes close to \$7 per bushel. Everyone was better off. China's consumers got what they wanted. American soybean growers prospered. Of course, this is the way trade is supposed to work.

But suddenly, Chinese state-run trading companies arbitrarily shut off imports of soybeans. Soybean meal that was selling in 1997 for \$240 per ton in the United States plummeted to \$125 per ton by January 1999. Soybeans selling for over \$7 per bushel in 1997, fell to just over \$4 per bushel by last summer.

So you can imagine what happened on the farm with the loss of that income. Combined with other factors, farmers were unable to pay their bills. Many farmers who were considered by their bankers to be well off are struggling to recover. In trade, what happens in China does make a difference in the United States of America, at least with our economy.

This shows what occurs when protectionism, when trade barriers, when tariffs, and when government-run controls take the place of the free market. Trade is distorted. Consumers abroad have less choice. And American family farmers suffer. It also demonstrates how important China's entry into the World Trade Organization is for America's farmers.

With a new bilateral market access agreement in place, and with meaningful protocol agreements that should soon be in place, China will not be able to use straight state trading enterprises to arbitrarily restrict and manipulate agriculture trade, and trade in any product, for that matter.

Once China has entered the World Trade Organization, they will have to do away with those organizations that violate the principles of a free market economy because they will have to in order to get into the World Trade Organization. For the first time in history, China would be bound by enforceable international trade rules.

When we trade with other countries, we export more than farm equipment, soybeans, computer chips, insurance, banking, a lot of services. We export part of our society and what our society stands for, the American values and ideals that can be communicated sometimes in commerce, that can never be communicated by American political leaders and by American diplomats. I think the exporting of our values and our ideals is very good. This is surely good for the World Trade Organization. It is good for China. It is good for the United States. I believe it is part of the process of keeping the peace.

We seldom get a real chance in Congress to make this a better and safer

world in a very large way without expending American blood and deploying American military might around the world. This is one of those rare opportunities, through commerce and through a very peaceful approach, to do something for peace around the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting permanent normal trading relations with China.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, March 3, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,742,858,530,572.10 (Five trillion, seven hundred forty-two billion, eight hundred fifty-eight million, five hundred thirty thousand, five hundred seventy-two dollars and ten cents).

One year ago, March 3, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,653,396,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-three billion, three hundred ninety-six million).

Five years ago, March 3, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,840,473,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred forty billion, four hundred seventy-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 3, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$496,847,000,000 (Four hundred ninety-six billion, eight hundred forty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,246,011,530,572.10 (Five trillion, two hundred forty-six billion, eleven million, five hundred thirty thousand, five hundred seventy-two dollars and ten cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Senator BOXER to S. 1134 that would help to protect children from exposure to pesticides used in schools. In the wake of tragic incidents in schools across the nation, many people now think of school safety in terms of enhanced protection from violent crime. My colleague's amendment addresses a less visible aspect of school safety: the need to reduce environmental health hazards from pesticides.

Because of their smaller size, greater intake of food and air relative to body weight, recreational environment, and developing systems, children are at higher risk from pesticide exposure than adults. Numerous studies show

that pesticides can pose health risks to children, such as impaired cognitive skills, fatigue, burns, elevated rates of childhood leukemia, soft tissue sarcoma, and brain cancer. Pesticides can be absorbed from exposure through skin contact, inhalation, or ingestion. One recent study showed that after a single broadcast use of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide commonly used in schools, the chemical remained on children's toys and hard surfaces for two weeks, resulting in exposure 21-119 times above the current recommended safe dose.

Last year, I requested that the General Accounting Office review the federal requirements that govern the use of pesticides in schools and the existence of data on the use and incidences of illnesses related to exposure. In January when I released the GAO report, "Use, Effects, and Alternatives to Pesticides in Schools," I noted that its results underscore the lack of both comprehensive information about the amount of pesticides used in our nation's schools, and data on whether pesticide exposure is adversely affecting our children's health.

In January, I called on Administrator Browner to task her agency to take immediate steps to protect children from exposure to pesticides in schools, including providing guidance to applicators and school districts on the relative exposures of different application methods, taking action to appropriately label pesticides that are being used in school environments, and consider conducting a full-scale statistical survey on the use of pesticides in schools to determine whether risks are posed to children by pesticides through cumulative exposure.

Ultimately, these measures all would lead to better information about the risks of pesticide exposure to children. However, we also need to act now to help parents protect their children in the interim. In 1999, Connecticut passed a bill requiring schools to create registries of parents who wish to be informed prior to school use of pesticides. Several other states have taken similar action. However, parents in many states still do not have access to information about when and what pesticides are being used in their children's schools. Senator BOXER's amendment would remedy this problem by ensuring that all parents receive advance notification before toxic pesticides are applied on school or day care center grounds.

In addition to supporting Senator BOXER's notification amendment, I am a cosponsor of Senator TORRICELLI's School Environment Protection Act of 1999, or SEPA, which is currently before the Agriculture Committee. In addition to recognizing the need for parental notification before pesticides are used in schools, SEPA would create a national requirement that when pesticides are used in schools, only the safest methods are followed in order to protect children. I recently visited a

school system in Cheshire, Connecticut, that has very successfully implemented these methods, known as Integrated Pest Management, or IPM. The Cheshire school system works closely with local contractors, who carry out monthly visual inspections of the schools, use least toxic pesticides when required, and apply them after hours and after contacting the school nurse. SEPA would require that, like the Cheshire schools, schools nationwide ensure that pesticides are applied safely and only when alternatives have failed.

I am pleased to be able to support Senator BOXER today in her effort to help parents protect their children by reducing their exposure to potentially harmful pesticides. And I hope that there will be further opportunities to discuss the important issue of decreasing children's exposure to pesticides in schools.●

HONORING MR. JACK BUTCHER OF LOOGOOTEE, INDIANA

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today not only on my own behalf but also on behalf of my senior colleague, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, to honor a fellow Hoosier, Mr. Jack Butcher. Mr. President, as you know, the game of basketball is synonymous with the great state of Indiana. Our affection for the game goes much deeper than the sport itself. We love the game of basketball because of the values that it instills: spirit, teamwork, dedication, and most important, hard work.

We rise today to honor Coach Jack Butcher of Loogootee, Indiana, for his great success in the game of basketball, and for his outstanding service and contributions off the court. Coach Butcher has spent the last 43 years of his life coaching, teaching and influencing the young men and women of Loogootee High School. He has taught countless students lessons about hard work and dedication that one cannot learn from a book.

On December 28, 1999, Mr. Butcher achieved a remarkable milestone in Indiana basketball history, winning his 760th career game, and becoming the all-time winningest coach in Indiana high school basketball history. Mr. President, once again, Senator LUGAR and I would like to commend Coach Jack Butcher for his outstanding contributions both on and off the hardwood. His legacy will be permanently embedded in the record books and in the hearts and minds of the people of Loogootee.●

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-7856. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor, Employment and

Training, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 3-95, Change 3", received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7857. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1999 annual report relative to the Department's prison impact assessment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7858. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1998 annual report relative of the National Institute of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7859. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on economic conditions in Egypt, 1998-99; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7860. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation relative to military construction and related activities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7861. A communication from the Director, Federal Register transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prices, Availability and Official Status of Federal Register Publications" (RIN3095-ZA02), received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7862. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of the Franklin, PA Nonappropriated Fund Wage Area" (RIN3206-AJ00), received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7863. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's report under the Government in the Sunshine Act for calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7864. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation relative to fiscal year 2001 appropriations for certain maritime and other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7865. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Central Aleutian District and Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands", received February 25, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7866. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Trawling in Stellar Sea Lion Critical Habitat in the Central Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands", received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7867. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of a Closure (Opens Directed Fishing for Pacific Cod in the Western and Central Regulatory Area in the Gulf of Alaska)", received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.