

if they do not continue to meet all requirements for 10 years after death, the government can still come back and collect the original estate-tax bill plus accrued interest. The government's interest is protected by a lien that is maintained on the business for 10 years.

Of course, because the family-business carveout is so complex—because it requires determining compliance and ensuring continued compliance for 10 years—business owners have to continue to engage in expensive estate-tax planning. That is a tremendous waste of resources—resources that would otherwise be plowed back into the business for new jobs, better pay for current employees, business expansion, or research and development.

A recent report by the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) found that, "on average, 39 jobs per business or 11,000 jobs have already been lost due to the planning and payment of the death tax." NAWBO projects that, on average, 103 jobs per business, or a total of 28,000 jobs, will be lost as a result of the tax over the next five years. That would not change under the Democratic substitute, because there would still be a need for expensive estate-tax planning.

Mr. President, 59 Senators voted for a better approach—one that takes death out of the equation and taxes inherited assets like any other assets for tax purposes. A capital-gains tax would be paid when the assets are sold, with only a limited adjustment in the decedent's tax basis to ensure that no one is subject to new tax liability.

That is the true compromise. Tinkering with an already unworkable section of the tax code is not an effective substitute. I hope the President will sign the Death Tax Elimination Act when it reaches his desk. If not, we will be back next year when a new President is in the White House, and I predict that we will prevail.

I yield the floor.

WILLISTON WATER TRANSMISSION LINE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of the bill to authorize the Williston Water Transmission Line. Williston is a small town of 13,000 located in the Northwest corner of North Dakota about twenty miles East of the Montana state line. Williston is located along the Missouri River not far from where the Fort Union Trading Post existed from 1828–1867. Today the fur trading post is a tourist attraction, and agriculture and oil productions are the main industries in the Williston area.

Mr. President, prior to construction of the existing Williston Water Treatment Plant, Williston obtained water to meet its municipal needs from the Missouri River. With the construction of the Garrison Dam and the creation of Lake Sakakawea in 1954, Williston is in the delta area of Lake Sakakawea

and had to relocate its water intake and water treatment plant approximately five miles upstream to its present location. The Corps and Williston funded the construction of a large diameter transmission line to convey the entire water supply from the water treatment plant to the city of Williston.

All of the water treated by the water treatment plant must flow through this single existing transmission line to reach Williston. In the 1970's and early 80's, siltation covered the existing intake valves for the city's water supply, requiring the construction of two new intake valves. The lake is currently silting twice as fast as the original Corps estimate. Mr. President, in the spring of 1998, a leak in the transmission line caused by the saturated soil forced the city to forgo any supply of water for five and a half days. The lack of accessibility, unstable soil conditions and high ground water along the route make the line's reliability a significant concern. Williston must now construct a new water transmission line on higher ground.

This bill will authorize the construction of a new water transmission line to Williston. Because the old line has been damaged by the construction of the Garrison Dam, this authorization is appropriate and essential. Mr. President, I would like to commend the residents of Williston who have worked so hard for so long to resolve this problem. They have been tireless in their efforts to fix this problem—a problem caused by the Federal government.

Mr. President, I join with Senator CONRAD and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the citizens of Williston have a reliable water transmission line.

THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today the Senate passed the Interior Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. Included in that legislation is a rider that exempts the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire from the Forest Service's Roadless Initiative. While I supported the passage of the Interior Appropriations bill, I want to express my concern over this rider.

I am concerned because the White Mountain National Forest is a national resource, and it is completely appropriate for the federal government to set forth policies to conserve and protect a national resource. Many of my constituents in Massachusetts hike, camp, sightsee and enjoy the great natural lands of the White Mountains. In fact, it was a Massachusetts Congressman, John Weeks, who sponsored the legislation creating the White Mountain National Forest. When the Forest Service sought comment on a new management plan for the forest, more than 54 percent of all comments were submitted by Massachusetts residents. Proponents of the rider have argued

that its purpose is to protect local control of forest management. Certainly local residents should have input in the management of the forest. I urge local participation in decisions at Cape Cod National Seashore. However, it sets a bad precedent when one forest is exempted from a national policy to protect the national interest.

Despite these concerns I did not move to strike this rider. The reason, ironically, is that I'm confident that the White Mountain National Forest will remain protected because of local input. Time and again, the local process, driven by the citizens of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, has resulted in sound management of the White Mountain National Forest. So, while I oppose the amendment for the precedent it will set, I expect and hope that it will have almost no impact on the health of the forest.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, July 17, 2000, the federal debt stood at \$5,671,572,598,778.11 (Five trillion, six hundred seventy-one billion, five hundred seventy-two million, five hundred ninety-eight thousand, seven hundred seventy-eight dollars and eleven cents).

Five years ago, July 17, 1995, the federal debt stood at \$4,927,653,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty-seven billion, six hundred fifty-three million).

Ten years ago, July 17, 1990, the federal debt stood at \$3,160,395,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred sixty billion, three hundred ninety-five million).

Fifteen years ago, July 17, 1985, the federal debt stood at \$1,795,284,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred ninety-five billion, two hundred eighty-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 17, 1975, the federal debt stood at \$533,089,000,000 (Five hundred thirty-three billion, eighty-nine million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,138,483,598,778.11 (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-eight billion, four hundred eighty-three million, five hundred ninety-eight thousand, seven hundred seventy-eight dollars and eleven cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE ECOLE CLASSIQUE ACADEMIC GAMES TEAM

• Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Ecole Classique Academic Games team from Metairie, Louisiana, which is one of the most successful Academic Games teams in America.

For the past seven years, Ecole Classique has competed in the National Academic Games in Eatonton, Georgia. Over these years, the team has won hundreds of first, second and third

place honors, more than 100 national titles, and seven sweepstakes championships as the finest team in the country. They have also won national titles in all four divisions, something no other school in the country has ever achieved.

The Ecole Classique team undergoes an intense year of preparation and hard work to prepare for the Academic Games. At the tournament they divide into four divisions and use creative problem solving skills and strategies to compete against other students from across America in the areas of Social Studies, Language Skills, Mathematics and Logic.

Once again, their hard work has paid off. At this year's competition, the Ecole Classique students won more than 100 trophies, 16 national championships and two sweepstakes titles—far outpacing their nearest competitors.

Making Ecole Classique's accomplishment even more remarkable is the fact that while other teams are comprised of all-star students pooled from multiple schools, Ecole Classique's team only consists of students who attend this small school in Metairie, Louisiana.

I must also salute the team's coach, Don Shannon. An extraordinary leader and mentor, Mr. Shannon has distinguished himself by becoming the only Academic Games coach in the nation to lead multiple sweepstakes champions in all four divisions.

I congratulate the remarkable students of Ecole Classique's Academic Games team who continue to make their family, school and community proud, and extend my very best wishes for their continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM WENTWORTH—2000 ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor William Wentworth upon his recognition as the 2000 Entrepreneur of the Year by the New Hampshire High Technology Council.

Bill is the President and CEO of Source Electronics, a software programming company that he has increased in size from three employees in 1988 to its current number of 220. Bill's strong commitment to customer service and the highest levels of quality are the primary reason why Source Electronic was able to grow into such a successful business.

Source Electronics illustrates true dedication to its clients by tailoring programs to meet their needs, such as an interactive website allowing customers the ability to submit and track their orders. It is competitive advantages like these that set Source Electronics apart from other companies and allows them to do business with large firms such as Lucent Technologies, Cabletron and Motorola, to name a few. The enthusiastic dedica-

tion to serve and support the customer is also demonstrated by the entire staff at Source Electronics, undoubtedly a result of the examples Bill has set for others. Under Bill's strong leadership, Source Electronics was voted one of the top ten companies in New Hampshire in 1997 and 1999.

The hard work Bill has invested into his company proves his keen business skill. The dedication he has exhibited in placing customer concerns first is truly commendable. It is companies like Bill's that prove New Hampshire's competitiveness in the technological field. Bill, it is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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.)

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE TALIBAN IN AFGHANISTAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 120

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:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Taliban (Afghanistan) that was declared in Executive Order 13129 of July 4, 1999.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 17, 2000.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 728. An act to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of structural measures constructed as part of water resource projects previously funded by the Secretary under such Act or related laws.

H.R. 3985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14900 Southwest 30th Street in Miramar City, Florida, as the "Vicki Coceano Post Office Building."

H.R. 4437. An act to grant to the United States Postal Service the authority to issue semipostals, and for other purposes.

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

H. Con. Res. 319. Concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Latvia on the 10th anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14900 Southwest 30th Street in Miramar City, Florida, as the "Vicki Coceano Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-566. A resolution adopted by the House of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois relative to the financial structure of the Coal Act; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 564

Whereas, Illinois is a coal-producing and coal-consuming State that has benefitted tremendously from the hard, dangerous work of retired coal miners; and

Whereas, The United States government entered into a contract with the coal miners in 1946 that created the United Mine Workers of America Health and Retirement Funds; and

Whereas, This contract was signed in the White House in a ceremony with President Harry Truman; and

Whereas, A federal commission established by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole concluded in 1990: "Retired coal miners have legitimate expectations of health care benefits for life; that was the promise they received during their working lives and that is now they planned their retirement years. That commitment should be honored."; and

Whereas, This promise became law in 1992 when Congress passed, and President George Bush signed, the Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act (the Coal Act); and

Whereas, The Coal Act reiterated the promise of lifetime health benefits for retired coal miners and their dependents; and

Whereas, Congress intended the Coal Act to:

"(1) remedy problems with the provision and funding of health care benefits with respect to the beneficiaries of multiemployer benefit plans that provide health care benefits to retirees in the coal industry;

(2) allow for sufficient operating assets for such plans; and

(3) provide for the continuation of a privately financed self-sufficient program for the delivery of health care benefits to the beneficiaries of such plans"; and

Whereas, Certain court decisions have eroded the financial structure that Congress put in place under the Coal Act; and