

good one. I hope we could begin the debate on the Interior bill tomorrow, perhaps taking up the Federal aviation bill on Monday, but we will work with the majority to see that we have a full schedule and protect Senators who have plans for religious purposes tomorrow.

I have no objection.

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

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Democratic leader for his cooperation. I ask unanimous consent that during the consideration of H.R. 3662, the Interior appropriations bill, that no amendments relative to Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or Voyageur's National Park be in order prior to Tuesday, September 17, 1996.

Madam President, let me withhold that request.

Madam President, we do want to make sure that is cleared by a Senator that has a direct interest in it, and we will make a call right now. It would be my intent to honor this, but I will try to get a unanimous-consent agreement locked in while we are making calls.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 11, the Federal debt stood at \$5,219,273,550,936.86.

One year ago, September 11, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,962,944,000,000.

Five years ago, September 11, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,619,285,000,000.

Ten years ago, September 11, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,105,838,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, September 11, 1981, the Federal debt stood at \$980,009,000,000. This reflects an increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,239,264,550,936.86—during the 15 years from 1981 to 1996.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR MRS. ESTHER WERNER

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Esther Werner of Creve Coeur, MI. Mrs. Werner celebrated her 90th birthday on August 2, 1996. I join her family and friends in celebration of this momentous occasion, and in wishing her continued health and happiness in the years to come.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION KENNY HARRISON

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the accomplish-

ments of Kenny Harrison of Bridgeton, MO at the games of the XXVIth Olympiad. Mr. Harrison won America's fourth track and field gold medal by jumping 18.09 meters in the triple jump. This jump, in addition to winning Olympic gold, also established a new U.S. and Olympic record. The State of Missouri, and the entire Nation, takes great pride in Mr. Harrison's record setting performance.

HONORING THE HELBIGS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Madam President, families are the cornerstone of America. The data are undeniable: Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of till death us do part seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Mr. Charles and Mrs. Dorothy Helbig of St. Charles, MO, who on September 21, 1996 will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. Charles and Dorothy's commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Will the distinguished Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee yield for a question?

Mr. LUGAR. Yes, I will yield for a question.

Mr. GRASSLEY. The Farm Credit System is the vital backbone of American agriculture providing needed financing for many components of agriculture. The FCS is regulated by the Farm Credit Administration. There has been a vacancy on the FCA Board since the resignation of Board member Gary Byrne on March 31, 1995. Under previous agreement with the President, the name of a highly qualified Iowan, Ann Jorgenson, was referred in August 1995 to the White House with the understanding that the President would send her name to the Senate for confirmation. To date, the White House has neglected to act on the nomination. This Senator feels that the lack of a full Board is very disruptive to the smooth operation of the Farm Credit System.

Can the Chairman share with the Senate any information which he may have on the nomination and whether or not the Senate will be able to act on it this Congress?

Mr. LUGAR. The Senator is correct that a vacancy has existed on the three-member Farm Credit Administration Board since March 31, 1995. The Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, sent the name of Ann Jorgenson to the President in June 1995 to fill a Republican vacancy at the Farm Credit Administration. The Committee has not received any notification from the White House regarding Ann Jorgenson's nomination. If the President does not formally nominate Ms. Jorgenson, the Committee and the Senate will be unable to act on the appointment this Congress and the Board will continue without its full complement of members.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I have personally known Ann Jorgenson for many years and I am very impressed with her accomplishments, her commitment to American agriculture, and her work and knowledge in the business world. She has developed business plans and goals, written software for farm accounting, spoken numerous times at agricultural seminars on various agriculture topics, and has authored a book on putting paperwork in its place. She also serves on board of the Farm Bureau Mutual Fund. She has an admirable record of public service to the State of Iowa, having served as a member of the board of regents, which oversees Iowa's three State universities. Currently, Ann is a board member of the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The list goes on extensively.

Once the administration formally nominates Ms. Jorgenson and the Agriculture Committee has an opportunity to review her record and qualifications, I am convinced that the Senator will conclude that she is a highly qualified person for the position.

Mr. LUGAR. I look forward to having the opportunity to examine her qualifications. Her reputation is an excellent one.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Would the Senator, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, join with me in urging the President to fill the vacancy on the Board of the Farm Credit System so that we may complete the confirmation process this Congress?

Mr. LUGAR. I join the Senator in urging the President to fill the vacancy on the FCS Board. The vacancy on the Board has existed for over a year now and the Board's daily oversight of the safety and soundness of the farm credit system would be greatly enhanced with a full Board.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that letters in support of Ann Jorgenson be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, June 28, 1996.

The President,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Nearly one year ago, then Majority Leader Senator Bob Dole sent to you the name of Ann Jorgenson to fill a