MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of the 1.5 million ethnic Armenians that were systematically murdered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915–1923. The 85th anniversary of the beginning of this brutal annihilation was marked on April 24.

During this nine year period, a total of 1.75 million ethnic Armenians were either slaughtered or forced to flee their homes to escape the certain death that awaited them at the hands of a government-sanctioned force determined to extinguish their very existence. As a result, fewer than 80,000 ethnic Armenians remain in what is present-day Turkey.

I have come to the floor to commemorate this horrific chapter in human history each year I have been a member of this body, both to honor those who died and to remind the American people of the chilling capacity for violence that, unfortunately, still exists in the world. It is all too clear from the current ethnically and religiously motivated conflicts in such places as the Balkans, Sierra Leone, and Sudan that we have not learned the lessons of the past.

Recently, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, of which I am a member, had the honor of hearing the testimony of one of the most well-known survivors of the Holocaust, Dr. Elie Wiesel. His eloquent words remind us that the same capacity for hate that drove the Ottoman Empire to murder ethnic Armenians and the Nazis to murder Jews is still present in the world. At the hearing, Dr. Wiesel said, ''violence is the language of those who can no longer express themselves with words.''

This hate manifests itself in many ways, from extreme nationalism to so-called ''ethnic cleansing'' to violations of the basic human rights of ethnic and religious minorities. And, in some cases, those filled with hate attempt to mimic the horrific events and beliefs of times past. For example, I am deeply disturbed by the apparent resurgence of right wing and anti-Semitic movements in Europe.

Dr. Wiesel also said, ''to hate is to deny the other person's humanity.'' Today, let us take a moment to remember the Armenians who died at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, and all of the other innocent people who have lost their lives in the course of human history simply for who they were. Our humanity may depend on it.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to join with Armenians throughout the United States, in Armenia, and around the world in commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

On the night of April 24, 1915 in Constantinople, nationalist forces of the Ottoman Empire rounded up more than 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders and murdered them in a remote countryside location. This atrocity began an eight year campaign of tyranny that would affect the lives of every Armenian in Asia Minor.

Armenian men, women, and children of all ages fell victim to murder, rape, torture, and starvation. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians had been systematically murdered and another 500,000 were exiled. With the world community consumed in the events of World War I and the subsequent period of recovery, the plight of the Armenian people went unanswered.

Today, this tragic episode in history serves to unite the Armenian people as they struggle to build an independent nation committed to democracy and peace in the Caucasus region. Despite the unresolved conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the ongoing blockade by Turkey and the violent attack on the Armenian Parliament last October, Armenians continue to build on these principles. It is this indomitable spirit that has kept the hope of Armenians alive through centuries of persecution.

The madness and cruelty which led to the tragic events of the Armenian genocide are not forgotten. Last year, when hundreds fled their homes in Kosovo, fearing for their lives, America and its NATO allies reacted quickly and decisively. We, as a nation, must continue to respond to such acts of oppression so that the deaths of all victims of hatred and prejudice are not in vain.

Therefore, on the 85th anniversary of the terrible tragedy of the Armenian genocide we remember the past and rededicate ourselves to supporting Armenia as it looks to the future.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, April 25, 2000, the Federal debt stood at $5,714,809,510,973.78 (Five trillion, seven hundred fourteen billion, eight hundred nine million, five hundred ten thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars and seventy-eight cents).

Five years ago, April 25, 1995, the Federal debt stood at $4,842,768,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred forty-two billion, seven hundred sixty-eight million).

Ten years ago, April 25, 1990, the Federal debt stood at $3,059,578,000,000 (Three trillion, fifty-nine billion, five hundred seventy-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, April 25, 1985, the Federal debt stood at $1,731,602,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred thirty-one billion, six hundred two million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 25, 1975, the Federal debt stood at $514,706,000,000 (Five hundred fourteen billion, seven hundred six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than $5 trillion—$5,200,103,510,973.78 (Five trillion, two hundred billion, one hundred three million, five hundred ten thousand, nine hundred seventy-three dollars and seventy-eight cents) during the past 25 years.

SENATE QUARTERLY MAIL COSTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in accordance with section 318 of Public Law 101–520 as amended by Public Law 103–283, I am submitting the frank mail allocations made to each Senator from the appropriation for official mail expenses and a summary tabulation of Senate mass mail costs for the first quarter of FY2000 to be printed in the RECORD. The first quarter of FY2000 covers the period of October 1, 1999, through December 31, 1999. The official mail allocations are available for franked mail costs, as stipulated in Public Law 106–57, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2000.

SENATE QUARTERLY MASS MAIL VOLUMES AND COSTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING DEC. 31, 1999

Senators	FY2000 official mail allocation	Total pieces	Pieces per capita	Total cost	Cost per capita
Abraham	$114,766	0	0	$0.00	0
Akaka	35,277	0	0	0.00	0
Allard	65,146	0	0	0.00	0
Ashcroft	79,102	0	0	0.00	0
Baucus	34,375	2,440	0.00305	1,950.86	$0.00244
Bayh	80,377	0	0	0.00	0
Bennett	42,413	0	0	0.00	0
Biden	32,277	0	0	0.00	0
Bingaman	42,547	0	0	0.00	0
Bond	79,102	0	0	0.00	0
Boxer	305,476	0	0	0.00	0
Breaux	66,941	0	0	0.00	0
Brownback	50,118	0	0	0.00	0
Bryan	43,209	0	0	0.00	0
Bunning	63,969	0	0	0.00	0