

The Senator from Kentucky also claimed that a nominee for a spot on the FEC has never been defeated on the floor, and that is true. But it is not true that the wishes of each of the parties has always been respected. In the mid-1980s, the Republican Party, under pressure from the National Right to Work Committee, blocked the reappointment of a Democratic Commissioner, Thomas Harris, because of his work as a lawyer representing unions. President Reagan refused to renominate Harris, and after a lengthy stalemate, another nominee was suggested.

So much of the argument in favor of this nominee today has been based on this notion that to try to stop an FEC nomination is a complete break with precedent, that we have to simply rubberstamp this pairing of two FEC commissioners. The reality is contrary to the suggestion earlier today, the party of the Senator from Kentucky has not always acquiesced in the choice of the Democratic Party for its seats on the commission.

Let me finally just dispel one misconception that I think some might have about the negotiations and agreements that led to this debate, which is clearly tied to various judicial and other nominations. There is no requirement here that Professor Smith's nomination be approved by the Senate in order for these other nominations to go forward. That is a misconception that some, particularly on our side, may believe. It is simply not the case with regard to the unanimous consent agreement and the negotiations between the majority leader and minority leader. In fact, it would be an abdication of our responsibility not to vote on the merits of this particular nominee regardless of the other nominations whose consideration was linked to the consideration of this nomination.

With that I reserve the remainder of my time and I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I ask the time be charged equally as I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Senator GRAMS quoted a letter to President

Clinton that I signed last year. He took this letter out of context. In supporting the public pension systems of state and local government workers, I called for the continuance of those plans—not for the creation of private, individual accounts.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, May 22, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,673,857,621,024.05 (Five trillion, six hundred seventy-three billion, eight hundred fifty-seven million, six hundred twenty-one thousand, twenty-four dollars and five cents).

Five years ago, May 22, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,883,843,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-three billion, eight hundred forty-three million).

Ten years ago, May 22, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,092,808,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-two billion, eight hundred eight million).

Fifteen years ago, May 22, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,750,663,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty billion, six hundred sixty-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 22, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$522,752,000,000 (Five hundred twenty-two billion, seven hundred fifty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,151,105,621,024.05 (Five trillion, one hundred fifty-one billion, one hundred five million, six hundred twenty-one thousand, twenty-four dollars and five cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CELEBRATING THE NALC NATIONAL FOOD DRIVE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, on the second Saturday of each May, letter carriers across the United States collect food donations on their postal routes to deliver to community food banks, shelters and pantries. I commend the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) for creating and sponsoring the largest one-day food drive in the country with over 100,000 letter carriers participating in more than 10,000 cities and towns.

Not only do America's postal workers perform an important function in our economy and in our daily lives, they make a difference in improving the lives of needy citizens. I extend my appreciation and thanks to NALC's leaders and members for their dedication and commitment to their strong tradition of community service.

The food drive started as small pilot program in 10 cities and, as a result of its huge success, was expanded nationwide. The program asks postal patrons to place a box or bag of food next to their mailboxes. The food is picked up, sorted at postal stations and then delivered to area food banks by letter carriers.

I am pleased to note that in my home state, the California State Association of Letter Carriers was among those state associations which donated the largest amount of food in the national drive. It is my hope that during the month of May and throughout the year, Americans will consider becoming involved in the NALC Food Drive and in other activities serving the less fortunate in our communities.●

ABC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) as they approach their 50th Anniversary. ABC was founded by seven contractors in Baltimore, Maryland on June 1, 1950, and is today a national trade association representing over 22,000 contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and related firms from across the country and from all specialties in the construction industry.

ABC is the construction industry's voice for merit shop (open shop) construction as ABC is the only national association devoted to the merit shop philosophy. Merit shop companies employ approximately 80 percent, or four out of five, of all American construction workers and seek to provide the best management techniques, the finest craftsmanship, and the most competitive bidding and pricing strategies in the industry. ABC believes that union and merit shop contractors and their employees should work together in harmony and that work should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder regardless of labor affiliation.

I greatly appreciate ABC's commitment to developing a safe workplace and high-performance work force through quality education and training with comprehensive safety and health programs. I also appreciate ABC's dedicated efforts to secure free enterprise, fair and open competition, less government, more opportunities for jobs, tax relief, increased training, and the elimination of frivolous complaints and over-regulation.

Accordingly, I thank ABC for their efforts and wish them continued success in their efforts to ensure that the American construction industry continues to afford the finest work product and greatest opportunity in the world.●

LOCAL LEGACIES PROJECT

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a select few individuals from my home state of Montana. I have personally nominated these individuals to represent Montana in the Library of Congress' Local Legacies Project as part of their Bicentennial Celebration. The Local Legacies project has allowed citizens to participate directly in this great celebration. The participants have documented America's grassroots heritage in every state, the U.S. Trusts and Territories, and the District of Columbia. Their documentation provides

a snapshot of the nation's unique traditions as we begin a new century. My nominees for Montana's Local Legacies have worked hard to represent the beauty and deeply rooted heritage of our rugged and wide open state. The survival of our heritage is important for knowing not only where we came from, but where we are going. And for this, I commend them.

Native Reign, is composed of Northern Cheyenne youth to promote the need for education, respect for the environment, development of personal skills, respect of tribal elders and a strong spiritual foundation. They have been supported by their adult leader Ken Bisonette and his efforts to make Native Reign the role model it has become. They combine traditional Native American dances, skits, with contemporary music to celebrate the history and traditions of the tribe. On April 9, 1999, they received the Governor's Award at the State Capitol Building in Helena from Montana Governor Marc Racicot for their success in showing Montana youth an alternative lifestyle to teen pregnancy, drugs and alcohol abuse, gangs, and violence. They are a role model for not only the young people of Montana, but for the rest of the United States as well. Congratulations Native Reign, you are truly a legacy!

Mike Logan, Montana's very own Cowboy Poet has contributed a book of poetry illustrated with original photographs he took during his travels throughout our breathtaking state. His book is entitled "Montana Is . . ." Mike wanted to share some of the beauty he had been privileged to experience and photograph in his 21 years living in Montana. As part of his introduction to the book, Mike states: "I love everything about Montana. . . . I still feel like I'm spending every day in heaven." Words that ring so true to my own heart. Mike paints a verbal and visual picture true to the very poetic nature of Montana's scenic beauty and spectacular wildlife. I would encourage everyone to pick up his book and take a journey into Montana's rich heritage. Thank you Mike, your poetry is one more part of our history we are lucky to have!

The Metis Project: When they Awake—was created and produced by Helena Presents, a production, presentation and film center based in Helena, Montana. It is a celebration of the extraordinary legacy of fiddle music of the Metis people. The project explores the musical and social legacy of a tribe without boundaries, whose heritage results from marriage between Indians and Europeans throughout the Northern Plains from Sault St. Marie, Michigan, to Choteau, Montana, across both sides of the 49th parallel. Central to the project is the creation of a new musical work that references the indigenous European rhythms and diverse European fiddle heritage that is present in Metis music. The name of the presentation is based on a prediction of Louis Riel, a teacher, writer, and hero to the Metis people:

My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.

Composer and performers Philip Aaberg and Darol Anger collaborated with master Metis fiddler, Jimmie LaRocque to revive once again the melodious spirit of the Metis people. Gentlemen, I take my hat off to you!

Five St. Ignatius High School students from St. Ignatius, Montana, who present and preserve their area's native traditions using interviews with farmers and ranchers of the Mission Valley of Montana along with poignant photographs which paint a dramatic picture of farm life in the Mission Valley. The report summarizing their findings was written by their teacher Marta Brooks. Students in Brooks's English and history classes used the "heritage education" approach to the study of local culture. They collected stories, oral histories, historical documents, art and geological information that reflect the unity of landscape and culture. Montana's traditional farmers and ranchers are becoming a dying breed so because of the change in the local landscape with the inevitable change in the local culture the students were prompted to initiate this project as a way to document and preserve the area's native culture and traditions before they cease to exist. Thank you all for your efforts to immortalize our rich agricultural heritage. Your hard work brings a lot of pride to Montana!

Montana Horse Story, was brought to us through the use of still photography, film, and field reporting, by a mother/son team, Allison and Joshua Collins. Allison and Joshua are part of a company called Related Images. Their project documents the legacy of the horse for work, transportation, and recreation as preserved by various Montana events such as rodeo, the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, Indian rodeo, and O-mok-see. Their work was last seen locally, in an exhibit of rodeo photography, at the Holter Museum, in Helena, Mt. Much like the other Local Legacies projects, Montana Horse Story pinpoints a vital part of Montana's rich traditions, that without it we would not be the people that we have become. Joshua and Allison, you have captured our spirit in some of its best moments. Without your talents and dedication, our story would never be heard. Thank you!

I conclude with one final remark: Without the hard work of all these individuals, Montana's rich cultural heritage may never be known. You should all be very proud of your efforts. I know Montanans are. And I most certainly am.●

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP MONTH

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, our nation's prosperity and continued success are directly related to the education of our citizens. As the price tag of higher education continues to rise, the importance of financial aid programs has

never been greater. To recognize those who help students achieve their goal of a higher education and to promote the accessibility of higher education to everyone, May has been designated as National Scholarship Month.

I would like to draw attention to one organization in particular that deserves accolades for its efforts to provide financial aid to students. The Minnesota-based Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America (CSFA) is the nation's largest private sector scholarship and educational support organization. Since its founding in 1958, CSFA has distributed over \$561 million to more than 572,000 students. Through more than 800 "Dollars for Scholars" chapters, the Foundation has established a grassroots network, with proven results.

I applaud the Foundation's tireless efforts to increase private sponsorship of scholarships to our nation's youth. I also congratulate and thank the dozens of Minnesota companies, organizations, and foundations that work with CSFA to help ensure that a higher education is an affordable education. Additionally, I join in CSFA's challenge to the communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals that already sponsor scholarships to double the number of awards, and I invite others to establish scholarship programs this year.

Mr. President, it is my hope that CSFA's leadership in the multitude of National Scholarship Month activities around the nation will broaden the support for private scholarship dollars and increase the level of participation. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the generosity of our nation's scholarship sponsors during this National Scholarship Month.●

BICENTENNIAL OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Library of Congress on the occasion of its Bicentennial. Since April 24, 1800, when President John Adams created the Library, it has stood as the foremost research library in the world. But more importantly it has been a symbol of the public's freedom of access to information, an idea which is the bedrock of our Republic.

The history of the Library of Congress is filled with some rather compelling stories. The early days of the Library were turbulent, to say the least. In 1813, in what may not have been our nation's proudest moment, American troops burned the Parliament House and the Library of Canada in present day Toronto. Seeking revenge, a year later British troops stormed into Washington, burned the White House and the Capitol, including the original Library of Congress. Recognizing that this national treasure must be restored, the then retired Thomas Jefferson offered his personal library at Monticello as a replacement.

Today the Library is the most comprehensive library in the country, and