

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? U.S. producers provide jobs for American workers. Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,400,000 barrels a day.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I think so often of that November evening long ago, in 1972, when the television networks reported that I had won the Senate race in North Carolina. It was 9:17 in the evening and I recall how stunned I was.

I had never really anticipated that I would be the first Republican in history to be elected to the U.S. Senate by the people of North Carolina. When I got over that, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

I have kept that commitment and it has proved enormously meaningful to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited during the 23 years I have been in the Senate.

A large percentage of them are greatly concerned about the total Federal debt which back in February exceeded \$5 trillion for the first time in history. Congress created this monstrous debt which coming generations will have to pay.

Mr. President, the young people who visit with me almost always are inclined to discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 25, 1992. I decided that it was important that a daily record be made of the precise size of the Federal debt which, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 19, 1996, stood at \$5,120,985,354,306.65. On a per capita basis, the existing Federal debt amounts to \$19,316.20 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt in the 24 hours since my report yesterday—which identified the total Federal debt as of close of business on Tuesday, June 18, 1996—shows an increase of more than \$2 billion—\$2,784,604,782.12, to be exact. That 1-day increase alone is enough to match the total amount needed to pay the college tuition for each of the 412,901 students for 4 years.

NOMINATION OF ALICE M. RIVLIN

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, earlier this afternoon, I joined 40 Republicans to oppose the nomination of Alice Rivlin to the Board of Governors

of the Federal Reserve. I wanted to take a moment now to explain my vote.

Let me emphasize that my vote should not reflect personally on Dr. Rivlin. Instead, it was exclusively based upon the manner in which the Clinton administration has not been forthcoming regarding its budget submission for fiscal year 1997.

As has been made clear in previous debates, in order to reach balance by the year 2002, the Clinton budget would require dramatic discretionary spending cuts in 2001 and 2002. These cuts would affect programs across the Government, including veterans' health care, medical research, and WIC.

Subsequent to the submission of this budget, several Cabinet Secretaries testified before Congress that the spending cuts required under the President's budget were subject to renegotiation on a yearly basis and should not be taken literally. In other words, the President's own appointees, who helped put his budget together, were claiming that the policies necessitated by that budget were not going to be pursued.

As Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Dr. Rivlin has been requested to account for the conflict between the President's budget and the testimony of his Cabinet Secretaries. As of this afternoon, however, Dr. Rivlin has been unable to provide what would be termed, in my opinion, as a suitable explanation. That is why I opposed her nomination.

Before I yield the floor, Mr. President, let me make myself clear. I have no misgivings about Dr. Rivlin's fitness or ability to fill the position to which the President has nominated her. Instead, my vote reflects my dismay at Congress' inability to get a straight answer from the administration about whether it stands behind its budget submission or not.

FORMER ALABAMA SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON AND THE DENTON AMENDMENT PROGRAM

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, former Alabama Senator Jeremiah Denton was recently honored at a luncheon and conference here on Capitol Hill for a significant amendment he sponsored and secured passage of in 1984. The event honoring Senator Denton was hosted jointly by our colleague Senator DEWINE of Ohio and Matthew:25 Ministries in Cincinnati, which operates a relief program for schools, orphanages, and clinics in Nicaragua.

This amendment passed as a part of the Defense authorization bill on October 19, 1984. It allowed, for the first time, the shipment of humanitarian goods from non-profit groups free of charge on military planes on a space-available basis. These goods include school, medical, and agricultural supplies and range from hospital beds to pencils.

Congress approved the legislation in order to resolve various legal questions

involved in such shipments and in order to take advantage of unused space on military vessels in Central America in times of crisis. It has since been expanded to encompass most of the world, and to date, more than 10 million pounds of goods have been shipped to needy countries. In fiscal year 1995, the program was used to transport approximately 2 million pounds of humanitarian goods to 21 different countries. It is now known widely as the Denton Amendment Program. Senator Denton was a member of the Armed Services Committee while in the Senate.

Groups such as Gay Construction of Decatur, AL, have used the program to ship 40,000 pounds of medical and school supplies to orphans in Albania. The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi used it in March 1995 to send 4,000 pounds of medical supplies and clothing to a small village in the Honduras.

Under the Denton program, the Department of Defense pays for the extra fuel used by its planes due to the heavier loads. The U.S. Agency for International Development pays for inspection costs, which are usually very small, and the Department of State monitors compliance of shipments to be certain they are consistent with American foreign policy initiatives.

Senator Denton was once a Navy pilot who was shot down over Vietnam on July 18, 1965. He spent 7½ years as a prisoner-of-war in a camp in Vietnam. He first received national attention during a 1966 interview his captors arranged with a Japanese television station. During this interview, he defied his captors' order to condemn American policy, saying he would support the U.S. Government's position as long as he lived. He also blinked the word "torture" in Morse code into the camera. The message, which was picked up by Naval intelligence officers, was the first confirmation that American POW's were being beaten and generally mistreated by the North Vietnamese. Senator Denton's ordeal was documented in his book, "When Hell Was in Session," which was also made into a movie.

As a military pilot and naval aviator, he had seen the poverty that existed in many countries, especially in Central America. He also knew that there was often empty space on cargo flights and that pilots often made "dry runs" in order to maintain their edge. When he put these facts together, the idea for his amendment came rather easily.

I commend and congratulate former Senator Denton for his strong leadership roles in both the Armed Forces and in the U.S. Senate. I also salute him for the tremendous sacrifices he made for his country during the Vietnam war. The Denton Amendment Program is an outstanding example of how the concern and efforts of one individual can make a real difference in the world.