could that not be subject to the Budget Act if we have any kind of budget restraint at all? So that is the issue. The issue is: Do you proceed with the bill or do you send it back to committee and let them try to fix it so it does not violate the Budget Act, which we spent 20 years developing around here to get our house in order? And all of a sudden, over 25 years, $998 billion worth of new revenues and expenditures are supposed to be forgotten about.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Two minutes 43 seconds.

Mr. KERRY. I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. President, since 1995, we have voted to waive the Budget Act 105 times. Now, we have heard debate here on the floor of the Senate for 3½ weeks, and $40 million has been spent telling America there is a tax increase in here. Nineteen members of the Commerce Committee—19 to 1—voted to send this bill to the floor of the Senate with a $1.10 price increase in it. That is the revenue that is raised by this bill.

The Senator from New Mexico does not tell you that every single penny that is contemplated to be spent in this bill is offset—it is offset. It was the Republican leader who put into this bill the Lugar amendment that competes with the Ford amendment, which everybody knows has to be resolved one way or the other before this bill could finally be signed into law.

So this is a charade. This is a charade. We have all learned that you can always find an excuse and a way to use the Budget Act to accomplish your goals.

But if you measure what has happened here, there was an effort by Democrats to raise the price. It failed. That should have helped the bill pass. There was an effort to have a cap on the damages, but it was a Republican Senator who brought the amendment to get rid of it. And more Republicans voted to get rid of that cap restraint than Democrats. Once again, the Republicans had their hand and their way.

Then there was the look-back amendment. It made it tougher on the tobacco companies, holding them accountable in reducing the level of smoking for kids. If you are interested in stopping kids from smoking, that was an amendment that made this bill better.

There was a child care amendment. All it did was restrict spending that was already in the bill. It was no new addition of one penny. It took restricted money, already restricted to the Governors, and it simply restricted within the pot of money that was already restricted somewhat further. No add-on of new money. Not one penny was added on by one Democrat amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 2 minutes have expired.

Mr. KERRY. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Forty seconds.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, this is a choice between tobacco—and $40 million spent to advertise a tax increase—and a choice between kids; and everybody in the country will understand that.

I yield the balance of the time to the Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we have the same time available to us on this side as the distinguished Senator from New Mexico had, which would have added about a half a minute or so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. You have already had more.

Mr. DOMENICI. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair charged time to the Senator from Alaska and the Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I ask consent we add a minute to the——

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I would object unless we get time equal to all the time used by—I reserve the right to object.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, what is the present situation in terms of time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The situation is, the Senator has about 20 seconds left.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. In 20 seconds, Mr. President, what we have seen tonight is a charade. What they did was spread DDT here. First delay, then destroy, then terminate any action on tobacco. That is the mission. This Budget Act is not—is not—violated. Everything here is paid for. And I hope that we will vote to waive the Budget Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico has 40 seconds.

Mr. DOMENICI. Forty seconds?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Forty seconds.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I object. You have 40 seconds left? No objection. You asked for a half minute, and went over.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield the 40 seconds to Senator NICKLES.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, the question is really, Do we have a budget or not? This bill says the budget does not apply. Read page 181. It says, ''the amount of * * * appropriations shall not be included in the estimates required under section 251 of [the Budget Act]. In other words, all these hundreds of billions of dollars of spending are over and above the budget that we agreed to, that the President agreed to.

This clearly breaks the budget. If we are going to have a budget, we should sustain it. This point of order is well made. And I urge my colleagues to support it and vote against the motion to waive the Budget Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to waive the Congressional Budget Act. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Akaka	Dorgan	Levin
Baucus	Durbin	Lieberman
Bennett	Feingold	McCain
Biden	Feinstein	Mikulski
Bingaman	Glenn	Moseley-Braun
Boxer	Graham	Moynihan
Breaux	Grassley	Murray
Bryan	Harkin	Reed
Bumpers	Inouye	Reid
Byrd	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Chafee	Johnson	Roth
Cleland	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Collins	Kerrey	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kerry	Snowe
D'Amato	Kohl	Torricelli
Daschle	Landrieu	Wellstone
DeWine	Lautenberg	Wyden
Dodd	Leahy	

NAYS—46

Abraham	Gorton	McConnell
Allard	Gramm	Murkowski
Ashcroft	Grams	Nickles
Bond	Gregg	Robb
Brownback	Hagel	Roberts
Burns	Hatch	Santorum
Campbell	Helms	Sessions
Coats	Hollings	Shelby
Cochran	Hutchinson	Smith (NH)
Coverdell	Hutchison	Stevens
Craig	Inhofe	Thomas
Domenici	Kempthorne	Thompson
Enzi	Kyl	Thurmond
Faircloth	Lott	Warner
Ford	Lugar	
Frist	Mack	

NOT VOTING—1

Specter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 46.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected. The point of order is sustained, and the bill falls.

Pursuant to section 312(f) of the Congressional Budget Act, the bill, S. 1415, is recommitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now begin consideration of Calendar No. 401, which is Senate bill 2138, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999, for debate only during the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:.

A bill (S. 2138) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I will be managing the bill for the majority and the Subcommittee of Appropriations on Energy and Water Development. I understand that the minority will not consent to any amendments being laid down tonight. So we will just have opening statements, and then I gather we will take the matter up at the earliest opportunity in the morning and proceed until we finish.

I might suggest, unless there are some amendments I am unaware of—and that could be the case—that there is a real possibility that we could finish this bill tomorrow. We would very much like to do that. That would mean Thursday night we would finish. If that doesn't happen, then we may have a complication with reference to the manager and ranking member, which might carry the bill over for a considerable number of days.

I want to give a few opening remarks about the bill. First, I thank my ranking member, Senator REID. This is a very difficult bill and, in many respects, contains some very, very serious, substantive matters for America and some very important defense policies with reference to nuclear weapons, our stockpile, and the like. We have worked very handily together, and I am proud of the bill we have before us.

This bill was reported unanimously by the Committee on Appropriations last Thursday and was filed on Friday. It has been available to Senators since Monday.

The committee recommendation provides a total of $20.9 billion in budget authority. Of that, $12 billion is defense and $8.9 billion is nondefense. Especially within the nondefense allocation, the committee has struggled to craft a recommendation that meets the Senate's expectations. The President's request for water projects was $1.8 billion below the level required to continue ongoing construction projects at their optimal level. If we were to truly fix that problem to provide the level of funding of water projects Congress envisioned when it enacted the Water Resources Development Act of 1998, which the President signed, and last year's Energy and Water Development Act, which the President signed, the committee would have to shift $1.8 billion from other programs within nondefense, which is only $8.9 billion of the entire bill. We would have to move that to the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Now, Mr. President, when the President of the United States decided to reduce water projects by $1.8 billion, let me suggest that these are flood protection projects in many, many States. These are dams and reservoirs that have been under construction. These consist of work on channeling our ports. And, yes, there is money that was obligated to build our ports so that they could continue to carry the vast commerce that comes in and out of the United States through these ports.

Much of the port activity—draining and the like, dredges—is paid for by the Federal Government. And the President decided that he had priorities in water, and he wanted us to pay for those and give dramatic increases. But when it came to all those projects that are all over our country that other Members appropriated last year and that the President signed, those were knocked out.

Mr. President, that is just not the way to do business. It is all right if the President wants to cut things, but to do it like that and then ask for his special projects to be increased as if they are the only ones that are deserving of any increase, and all the rest of our States and our ports of entry are supposed to be cut, just doesn't make sense.

So, actually, we are going to have a little difficulty when we go to conference in that part of the bill which is called nondefense. That includes water projects, plus nondefense research projects within the Department of Energy—some very important research projects.

That much of a reduction would be impossible to impose on the Department of Energy's science, energy, research, and environmental management programs. Fortunately, to reduce our need to cut these programs, Chairman STEVENS provided the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee with $238 million in nondefense budget authority above a freeze.

The committee recommendation is to use all of that increase and an additional $211 million taken from a freeze level within the Department of Energy to add to water projects. I just explained why he wants to do that. Even at that, Senators have been very understanding, because it means two things for all the Senators and their projects. We have been able to provide between 60 percent and 70 percent of the optimal funding level for water project construction, and our baseline for the Department of Energy was a freeze, and we had to go below that.

As an example, the administration proposed a $90 million increase, $26 million over last year, for solar and renewable energy. We are working with two of our Senators who want to amend what we have done in this bill. Let me just explain what we have done.

Regardless of any individual's view on solar and renewable energy, the subcommittee does not have resources to provide the kind of increase that the President had in mind. The recommendation for solar and energy is a $780,000 reduction from the current level—that is what we have in our bill—and that is because we have to cut below a freeze in this part of this bill.

As usual, the subcommittee has received requests for thousands of individual projects. To the best of our ability, we have tried to include those in the water area where requests were generally well founded requests to provide adequate funding for ongoing projects. Unfortunately, because the reductions apply to DOE's nondefense program, there is very little flexibility to add projects within budgets that are already being cut.

For a specific recommendation—but before I do that—I am not sure that I will deliver my entire summary—I want to yield the floor and ask if my ranking member desires to make some comments at this point.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as ranking member of this subcommittee, I recommend this bill to my colleagues.

I first of all want to say that we hear so much in the press about the partisan nature of this Congress. And there is, I think, in the minds of most everyone too much partisanship. But I think the Appropriations Committee is a place to look to see bipartisanship, to see a model as to how we can get along to make progress. This bill is a bill that was done on a bipartisan basis. The ranking member, I, and the chairman of the subcommittee, the senior Senator from New Mexico, have worked very hard to come up with a bill that is the most just and fair bill we could come up with.

This is a very important bill. It deals with many different aspects of our society. We realize the importance of this legislation. The chairman and the ranking member, as a result of that, have worked very closely together. We have a harmonious relationship between ourselves and our staffs.

I repeat, the two Members operate this subcommittee. I extend my arm of friendship to my senior colleague, the chairman of this subcommittee, who has been very forthright. I have been included in all the meetings with Cabinet officials and others to come up with this bill.

But I also say to the administration that we have a constitutional form of government. We have to protect the legislative aspect of this separation of powers document. The administration did not, in my opinion, treat us fairly with this bill. As a result of this, because we have broad and equal say in what goes on in this country as a legislative branch, we step forth and rearrange the priorities of this bill. We did it in a way that protects ongoing projects that are essential to various parts of this country.

We feel that we have come up with something that is fair and that is reasonable. There are programs that have been itemized for projects and activities of the Department of Energy, the Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and other independent agencies.

I repeat that I support the approximately $21 billion in appropriations to this Senate. I recommend this to the Senate as a whole.

I can't overemphasize the fiscal tension between these programs that we worked to make a balance. The Department of Energy, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation recognize some of it.

On the defense side of this bill, there is a very close, important relationship

that we have with the security of this country. Some of these programs are relatively nondiscretionary, since we must provide for the stockpile stewardship management program, defense environmental management, and the naval reactor program.

I repeat, the chairman and I have worked very hard to find a balance in this bill and recognize this bill is far from perfect, but it is the best that two human beings could do to balance the separate interests—the hundreds and hundreds of requests that we get from the 98 other Senators. So we have not accommodated everyone's priorities—not every State's priorities or the projects—but we have done the very best that we could.

Mr. President, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation:

It is no secret that the budget request sent to us by the President would have increased some solar and renewable activities while devastating the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation projects. But everyone should understand that we did an excellent job, in my opinion, with solar and renewable. We are willing to bring at the right time solar-renewable up to last year's limit. That will be very difficult to do. But we will do that. But we have taken pretty good care of other programs. We have done a good job of increasing the hydrogen aspect. That is very important. We have done a good job with wind energy.

So I don't really apologize to anyone for the work that we have done in this bill. I don't apologize for what we have done with the tools we have with solar-renewable activities.

Mr. President, we hear a lot about water projects as if there is something wrong with a water project because the term ''project'' is connected to it. But let's talk about some. I am going to pick at random some of the water projects in this bill and indicate to this body and to anyone within the sound of my voice why these projects are important.

Take a place in North Dakota. Mr. President, North Dakota doesn't have a lot of people. I don't know if it is the State with the smallest number of people in it in this Union or not. But, if not, it is one of the smallest. North Dakota doesn't come to us with a large congressional delegation, but we felt, in fairness to the people of that small State, that we should do something about an act of nature that devastated a place called Devil's Lake. That certainly is a name that is appropriate because that lake is unending in spreading out over that part of the country. We have put money into this for flood control projects in North Dakota. We have, for example, $8 million for construction of another outlet on Devil's Lake. This is important because that lake just continues to grow. Never in recorded history has this lake been the size that it is, wiping out highways, people's farms, people's homes. That is one of the projects in this bill.

In the Mississippi delta region, Davis Pond, LA, this is a pond that diverts fresh water from the Mississippi to the coastal bays and marshes, but also mitigates any negative environmental impacts of freshwater diversion. It is a large project, $16 million, essential to that very important part of that country.

Mr. President, I have traveled in California to look at the California bay-delta. I didn't do a very good job of looking at it because El Niño got in the way. The rains were torrential, and I wasn't able to see very much.

The State of California has 33 million people. This project, which we were very generous in funding last year, and this will be the second year, is said by most people to be the most important environmental project in this country ongoing today. This bill has $65 million it added to some $85 million we put in last year. I think that was the number. But it is so important to that massive State to try to get things under control out there. We have environmental interests. We have agricultural interests. We have big cities. We have little cities, many different problems that we have there, and these people are all sitting down and talking about it. This is our recognition that progress is being made.

There is something in here that I am sure some of the press will focus on—what could this be—aquatic plant control. This is a strange-sounding name. Why should there be any money put in this? I wish we could appropriate ten times more money than the $4 million we put in this because it is badly needed. This $4 million is so important because we have aquatic plants which can and do hinder navigation. They undermine flood-control efforts. They threaten agriculture and public health.

Now, you have, for example, in Lake Champlain, VT, a problem with something called the water chestnut and Eurasian Milfoil. State and local governments are desperate for help because these plants are invasive. They are interfering with the lives of the people of Vermont and that part of the country.

We have in the western part of the United States a tree that was imported to stop the erosion of banks and rivers and streams. These things, called salt cedar trees or tamarisks, are literally ruining streams, agricultural ponds, rivers. We in Nevada, for example, have very few rivers, and they are not powerful rivers. The only real powerful river we have is the Colorado, but on some of these smaller streams this plant is devastating, ruining agriculture. So I wish we could put a lot more money into this to help places like Lake Champlain and others throughout the United States.

Dredging of ports and harbors along the Atlantic and Pacific coastlines, as well as the harbors in the Gulf of Mexico, no small task for the Corps of Engineers. On an annual basis, U.S. ports and harbors handle an estimated $600 billion in international cargo, generating over $150 million in tax revenue. So that is part of the responsibility in our bill, to make sure the ports in the Atlantic and Pacific and Gulf of Mexico can handle their small navigation projects, totaling less than $10 million, but they are large navigation projects.

As an example, the New York and New Jersey channels need to be deepened, dredging and other corps operations to permit commercial navigation traffic through the complex river-harbor system they have. These projects are funded in this bill at over $50 million. They are important to the literal survival of the commerce of New Jersey and New York.

There are things in this bill on which we have to go forward, and it is not fair, in my opinion, that the administration cut back on these ongoing projects. We just could not stop the projects.

So these kinds of projects have been priorities of Members and funded through nondefense dollars. This bill is as important as the defense authorization bill and the defense appropriations bill which will come up for the security of this Nation. No question about that in my mind. While the allocations provided the subcommittee for the Army Corps of Engineers was higher than the President's request, it was still over $200 million less than last year's level.

Now, I want to say one other thing that I think is important, and again I express my appreciation to the chairman of the subcommittee. The subcommittee mark has a section in the bill that reports and addresses the concerns about the management and regulatory oversight at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As I stated in the markup before the full committee, Senators CHAFEE and BAUCUS, who are the authorizing full committee leaders of Environment and Public Works, do a good job, and we have requested and they have accepted the responsibility of taking a look at some of the things going on at the NRC.

Again, I express my appreciation to the chairman of the subcommittee for cooperating on this issue. We have a responsibility as the appropriators to make sure that the taxpayers' dollars that we appropriate are used fairly. I have a very, very strong feeling that it is topheavy at the NRC. I have talked to people there who believe it is topheavy, too much management. We need to make sure there is an examination of this commission so that there are more people to do the work at the lower levels, and we do a good job of limiting management.

I thank the junior Senator from Maryland, Ms. MIKULSKI, for working with us and whose efforts on behalf of the employees living in Maryland were of great value as we reexamined the funding levels and language. There are people who work there who need to make sure they are still there able to do the work and we relieve a little of the dead weight, frankly, at the higher

levels. This is something we need to revisit next year if this isn't resolved during this coming year.

Mr. President, we have the responsibility for the Nation's nuclear stockpile. I am not going to spend a lot of time on that tonight other than to say the Senate has to realize that this is an awesome responsibility we have, the chairman and the ranking member, to make sure there is adequate money to take care of our nuclear stockpile. We have to make sure the nuclear stockpile we have is safe and reliable. We no longer do underground testing, but we still have as large a responsibility as we ever had to make sure our stockpile is safe and reliable. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is something that this country adheres to, but we go one step further than most countries; we make sure the stockpile we have, I repeat, is safe and is reliable. That is what we are trying to do with this bill, and $4.5 billion a year is barely enough to do it. We can't have that cut down at all, or we will have some significant problems in this country. We can't put the nuclear genie back in the bottle. It is open. It is there, as indicated in the actions that have been taken by the countries of India and Pakistan. We have a responsibility, however, to make sure that we safeguard our nuclear stockpile.

So I think we have done that in this bill. We have good teamwork between the laboratories and the Nevada Test Site. We have tried to make a good balance there. I think we are looking at, also, some great science that is being conducted in those national laboratories, which are a jewel this country has. These laboratories do the finest raw science of any place in the world, and their job is only going to become more difficult now that we have stopped underground nuclear testing.

It is going to become more difficult because they have to do it in ways that only great scientific minds can do it. They are doing great things right now with subcritical testing. That is, they will start a device and before it gets critical they stop it and, through computerization and the other means they have at their disposal, they give us information as to what would have happened had that nuclear reaction gone critical. There are other things they are doing because of the need for further evaluation of these tests. Computerization is going to increase from present models as much as 1,000 times. So there is great science taking place as generated in this bill.

Again, I say this bill provides for some very important things for this country, in the defense field and the domestic field. I repeat, it is not a perfect bill, but we did the best we could with the tools we were given, and I recommend to the Members that we approve this just as quickly as possible. This will be the first appropriation bill in the cycle and we should get it to the President as quickly as possible. It is the first and, I think, if not the most important, one of the two or three most important appropriations bills that we have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to proceed for a few minutes and then ask we move off of this bill and go into morning business.

Mr. President, within the Department of Energy's nondefense accounts we have placed a priority on science. Our recommendation is only $44.9 million below the request, most of which is taken from prior year balances that can be used to offset fiscal year 1999 expenses.

We are recommending proceeding with the construction of the Spallation Neutron Source at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. When it is completed, it will be one of America's most significant research tools, and it will add to the versatility and diversity of that great laboratory.

We have also provided funds for the administration's requests for new nuclear energy programs and have provided a slight increase for the magnetic fusion energy account, just enough to bring it up to current levels. We provided three additional nuclear research programs that we believe are absolutely urgent.

The bill includes a total of $11.9 billion for the atomic energy defense activities. That is $269 million below the budget request.

This bill contains $1.048 billion for defense facilities cloture projects. The largest increase is $32 million for Rocky Flats, that project which was significantly underfunded in the budget. Accelerated cleanup at Rocky Flats will save an estimated $1 billion, which would then be available for other cleanup work. So it is important that the schedule at Rocky Flats be maintained as much as possible.

In other defense activities, one of my highest personal goals is to destroy excess weapons plutonium in the United States and Russia. I believe it is the key to permanent nuclear arms control.

The administration is on a path to begin to fabricate into mixed-oxide fuels, 3 tons of U.S. weapons plutonium per year and is tentatively working to aid Russia to fabricate 1.3 tons per year into mixed-oxide fuel. I think both countries should destroy in the order of 10 tons per year. But more than that, we have to ensure that Russia destroys at least as much weapons plutonium as we do because they have many times as much as we do. Anything else amounts to unequal disarmament.

So my recommendation is to provide for a full amount of the request, but make a portion of it contingent upon bilateral accords which require at least equal conversion of weapons grade plutonium in the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mr. President, just one last closing remark, and perhaps we will have to talk about this more tomorrow. But I note, many Senators' offices have had lobbyists come to see them about what is in this bill and what is now called Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship. Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship is an American plan to use the highest of science, technology and computers to measure the efficacy and effectiveness of our nuclear weapons; that is, to determine if they will do what they are supposed to do, if they are safe, trustworthy and sound.

If someone wants to come to the floor and suggest the $4.46 billion which goes to this Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship should be reduced because it is a lot of money, let me just suggest when the United States of America decided that we would no longer do underground testing, which is one of the methods to determine the validity of our nuclear weapons and of that stockpile—since we do not build any new ones, we are only talking about old ones—if you want to return to underground testing, you probably can get by with less money for Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship, because it takes the place, in a sense, of underground tests as part of the verification of the value of the nuclear weapons, in terms of trustworthiness, accountability, and the like.

So, for those who do not want to give the scientists and the laboratory directors the tools so they can certify our supply of nuclear weapons every year to the President of the United States as required by law—first to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and then to the President—if you don't want to give them the money to do that, then let's have an amendment on the floor and see if we are going to return to underground testing. I do not believe anyone wants to do that, at least not enough Senators. So we have to proceed doing it through science, through new ways to x-ray, in a sense, what is in these weapons through computerization, which is going to be improved dramatically for America and the world as part of this process so we can use the vast models and research capacity of computers to do this job.

The day may come when we do not have any nuclear weapons. But for now, Russia still has a lot of nuclear weapons. Within the last month and a half, we have heard about two more nuclear powers. I believe that we have to maintain ours in a solid, ready, trustworthy state, and reduce them as much as possible, consistent with the risks to the United States. That is the kinds of things in this bill—very, very important.

I must say, all of that money comes out of the Defense Department. So, when you look at the defense moneys for America, you must understand that about $14 billion of it goes to this committee for the nuclear activities and the laboratories that produce and do the nuclear research for us, and for the maintenance of the stockpile. It is very important everybody understand that.

That money cannot be spent anywhere else. It is subject to the walls that we have put up around defense spending so you cannot spend it for nondefense work, you cannot spend it for water projects, and I am very, very thankful you cannot. If those walls come down, you will see the pressure for domestic spending eat away at defense needs, including the defense needs as depicted in this bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TOBACCO LEGISLATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today is a sad day for children across America. Big tobacco companies with unlimited lobbying budgets and Republicans in the Senate killed tobacco reform legislation. Kids lost and Joe Camel won. I am outraged at the message this sends: tobacco money is more important than children's health.

Almost four weeks ago, the Senate began debating a comprehensive tobacco bill aimed at reducing underage smoking and strengthening the role of public health agencies to combat tobacco. Congress appeared unified in its intent to end the practice of tobacco companies preying on our children. But some of my colleagues in the Senate got lost along the way.

Since we started debate on tobacco legislation, more than 60,000 children have taken up this deadly addiction. But, this has not been the focus of the debate on this legislation. In fact, if the American people were watching the debate on the Senate floor they would be hard pressed to determine what legislation we were actually debating. That's because the tobacco industry has spent $40 million to hijack the process and prevent Congress from acting. This is a tragic example of our political system at its worst.

We had an historic opportunity to enact comprehensive tobacco legislation that would have mandated tobacco companies stop targeting our children. In one piece of legislation we could have saved five million children from suffering the ill effects of smoking or facing premature death. Those who acted to kill this legislation will have to answer these five million children, who are now facing a death sentence due to the actions of a few.

To those who think the state suits are a fall back position, they need to know that these suits do not change the corporate culture of tobacco. The states litigate, and Congress legislates.

This is a sad day for those of us who have worked hard to advance the tobacco settlement. Throughout debate of this legislation, I voted to strengthen the bill to protect our children and prevent the continued deadly assault of tobacco companies.

As a parent, I have always been troubled by how tobacco companies target our children. When my son turned 14, he received a birthday card from a tobacco company inviting him to celebrate this milestone by purchasing cigarettes. They sent a child coupons for cigarettes as a birthday gift. This is outrageous and unacceptable. These are kind of tactics that I have been fighting to end.

I will not let this set back today end my pursuit of big tobacco. I will continue to stand up to tobacco companies. I will continue to work for bipartisan, comprehensive tobacco legislation that is focused on public health.

This is not the first time I have witnessed the power of the tobacco industry or the hold that tobacco money has on many of the same members of the Senate. It is these very members who have used every tactic known to delay, filibuster and load this bill down with so many unrelated items, that it is hard to remember what was in the original legislation.

Every parent should be outraged. The U.S. Senate played politics with the health and safety of children in America. Today's action says that tobacco money is more important than the health and safety of our children. Where are our priorities?

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 16, 1998, the federal debt stood at $5,489,043,503,639.58 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty-nine billion, forty-three million, five hundred three thousand, six hundred thirty-nine dollars and fifty-eight cents).

One year ago, June 16, 1997, the federal debt stood at $5,355,413,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, four hundred thirteen million).

Five years ago, June 16, 1993, the federal debt stood at $4,302,703,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred two billion, seven hundred three million).

Ten years ago, June 16, 1988, the federal debt stood at $2,526,681,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred twenty-six billion, six hundred eighty-one million).

Fifteen years ago, June 16, 1983, the federal debt stood at $1,304,460,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred four billion, four hundred sixty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than $4 trillion—$4,184,583,503,639.58 (Four trillion, one hundred eighty-four billion, five hundred eighty-three million, five hundred three thousand, six hundred thirty-nine dollars and fifty-eight cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 12TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reported for the week ending June 12 that the U.S. imported 8,862,000 barrels of oil each day, 529,000 barrels a day less than the 9,391,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the rare weeks when Americans imported slightly less foreign oil than the same week a year ago, Americans still relied on foreign oil for 58.4 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States imported about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians should give consideration to the economic calamity certain 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 U.S.—now 9,532,000 barrels a day at a cost of approximately $99,431,640 a day.

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to take just a few moments of the time of the Members to discuss a subject which I find probably no one has ever heard of but, nevertheless, is one of the very serious problems facing the world. I wish my colleagues a Happy World Day to Combat Desertification.

I assume most Senators have never heard of this day, so let me explain. June 17 was established as World Day to Combat Desertification to promote awareness of dryland degradation.

Few Americans today have an association with desertification. My parents and their contemporaries did: the great ''Dust Bowl'' that occurred in the western United States in the 1930s. Desertification is defined as land degradation in arid and semi-arid areas resulting from climatic variations and human activities. It can occur to such an extent that affected dryland can no longer sustain vegetation, crops, livestock or the people who depend on them for survival. In the 1930s, desertification forced farmers and their families off their land when topsoil—and their livelihood—blew away. Vermont is not arid. But as an agricultural State, Vermonters were pained by the plight of western farmers. The suffering of these farmers who became penniless migrants is still starkly visible in photos of the era.

Hopefully, the U.S. will never experience another ''Dust Bowl.'' We have the expertise and resources to prevent such damage to U.S. agricultural lands. However, it threatens the way of life of one billion people worldwide in underdeveloped countries. The economic consequences of desertification are particularly devastating in regions that are both underdeveloped and arid. In these regions, much of the population relies on subsistence agriculture. Subsistence farmers do not have the means