

Burns	Gregg	Mikulski
Byrd	Hagel	Murkowski
Campbell	Harkin	Murray
Chafee	Hatch	Nickles
Cleland	Helms	Reed
Cochran	Hollings	Reid
Collins	Hutchinson	Robb
Conrad	Hutchison	Roberts
Coverdell	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Craig	Inouye	Roth
Crapo	Jeffords	Santorum
Daschle	Johnson	Sarbanes
DeWine	Kennedy	Schumer
Dodd	Kerrey	Sessions
Domenici	Kerry	Shelby
Dorgan	Kohl	Smith (NH)
Durbin	Kyl	Smith (OR)
Edwards	Landrieu	Snowe
Enzi	Lautenberg	Specter
Feingold	Leahy	Stevens
Feinstein	Levin	Thomas
Fitzgerald	Lieberman	Thompson
Frist	Lincoln	Thurmond
Gorton	Lott	Torricelli
Graham	Lugar	Voivovich
Gramm	Mack	Warner
Grams	McCain	Wellstone
Grassley	McConnell	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1
Moynihan

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 26, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,591,807,374,069.84 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-one billion, eight hundred seven million, three hundred seventy-four thousand, sixty-nine dollars and eighty-four cents).

Five years ago, April 26, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,561,451,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred sixty-one billion, four hundred fifty-one million).

Ten years ago, April 26, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,756,180,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred fifty-six billion, one hundred eighty million).

Fifteen years ago, April 26, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,485,043,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-five billion, forty-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 26, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$471,530,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-one billion, five hundred thirty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,120,277,374,069.84 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, two hundred seventy-seven million, three hundred seventy-four thousand, sixty-nine dollars and eighty-four cents) during the past 25 years.

DAIRY POLICY REFORM

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the direction of our nation's dairy policy. When Congress passed the 1996 Farm Bill, we passed the most significant reform of our agricultural system since the Great Depression. In that bill, we ordered USDA to update our outdated milk pricing laws—something that had not happened for 60 years.

In taking these market oriented actions to drag dairy policy into—if not the 21st century—at least the second half of the 20th century, Congress may have spoken more boldly that we were willing to act. Congress has tried to put the brakes on USDA's milk pricing reform efforts from the moment they began. And now, mere days after USDA announced the reformed system, there are those who are seeking to insulate their home states from it by legislating compacts to set the price of milk artificially high in their regions.

These actions cannot stand. Though I understand my colleagues desire to protect the dairy farmers in their regions, I cannot let them do so at the expense of the productive dairy farmers in the upper Midwest—or at the expense of a national milk pricing system that, for the first time in sixty years, is market oriented and fair.

Expanding the anti-competitive Northeast dairy compact would regionalize the dairy industry and institutionalize market distorting, artificially high prices in one area of the country—just as the rest of the country is moving toward a simplified and more equitable system.

Dairy markets are truly national in nature. My region of the country, the Upper Midwest, has learned this lesson all too well. We have seen our competitive dairy industry decline, damaged by the distortion caused by an outmoded milk marketing order system. That system requires that higher prices be paid to producers the farther they are from Wisconsin. Sixty years ago, when the Upper Midwest was the hub of dairy production and the rest of the country lagged far behind, this regional discrimination had some justification. It encouraged the development of a dairy industry capable of producing a local supply of fluid milk in every region. But today, that goal is largely accomplished, and the continuation of the discriminatory pricing policy serves only to fuel the decline of the dairy industry in the Midwest.

The new system proposed by USDA is not all that we in the Upper Midwest would want. But it is an improvement in the current system, and a move toward a national compromise on this divisive issue. It is a step forward.

The legislation introduced today to continue the Northeast Dairy compact is just the opposite—a step backwards. It would remove a region from the new national dairy pricing system and move toward a Balkanized dairy policy. It hurts consumers in the affected region—consumers who will pay arti-

cially high prices for their milk. And it hurts our hopes of achieving long-overdue unity on dairy pricing reforms that are fair and good for all regions of the country.

For all of these reasons, I oppose the expansion of regional milk pricing cartels like the Northeast Compact, and I ask my colleagues to do the same. Lets enter the next millennium with a dairy policy that is market-oriented and consumer friendly—not one that ties us to the unjustified protectionism and unnecessary inequities of the past.

CELEBRATING MISSOURI HOME EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, as a parent and former teacher, it is a privilege for me to be able to recognize Missouri home schoolers, who will observe Missouri Home Education Week during May 2-8, 1999.

Home schooling has been legal in Missouri since the state's founding in 1821. Since that time, and especially in the last two decades, home schoolers have faced numerous challenges and successes.

Fortunately, legislators are increasingly cognizant of the importance of local decision-making and parental involvement in our children's education. Home Education Week reminds us that parents are the first and best educators of their children. Study after study has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a child's academic achievement.

It is, therefore, appropriate that we celebrate Home Education Week by acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence of the more than 4,300 home school families in my home state. Recently, the Washington Post lauded the academic achievement of these families. The Post article describes a study of home-schooled children, stating that they "score well above the national median on standardized tests [and] often study above their normal grade level."

It was an honor for me to proclaim Missouri's first Home Education Week in 1989. Now, in 1999, I look forward to the continued success of Missouri home school families, and to working with them to promote the kind of freedom that encourages parents to take an active role in guiding the course of their children's education.

ANTITRUST SUITS AND SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that articles written by Karen Kerrigan and Raymond J. Keating of the Small Business Survival Committee, along with a letter addressed from Karen Kerrigan to certain Members of Congress, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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