

the kind of things that move this economy along. If they are not confident about the future, they decide not to make those decisions, they decide to withhold this purchase, or that purchase, and it affects the economy.

What we did about 7 years ago dramatically changed the fiscal policy of this country. This country has had unprecedented economic expansion, and a huge and growing Federal budget deficit is now eliminated.

What remains is the Federal debt that occurred from all of those years of spending. The question is, What should we do about that? The answer for many in this Senate who voted to pass a tax cut was to say what we should do about that is essentially ignore that; let's provide a very large tax cut right now just based on projections by economists who often cannot even remember their home address. That is not good policy. I am pleased that I voted against it.

I think most Americans believe that the right approach for this Congress is to continue on this path we are on of good solid fiscal policy, believing that if and when we have true, good economic times and significant budget surpluses, a major part of that ought to be used to reduce the Federal debt. What greater gift can we give to America's children than to eliminate the Federal debt of \$5.7 trillion?

Let me thank my colleague from Maine. She has been most patient. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1576 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, seeing no one seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Vermont.

VERMONT FOLIAGE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today on an issue of the utmost importance to Vermonters. I recently returned from a wonderful month in my home State of Vermont. I visited farms and downtowns, talked to teachers, parents, and business men and women from all over our State, and enjoyed the beautiful Vermont summer. However, as I and countless of Americans know, nothing compares to Vermont in all of its autumn glory. I would like to read the following proclamation, that I received when I was visiting the picturesque town of Stowe, VT:

VERMONT FOLIAGE CHALLENGE PROCLAMATION

Inasmuch as Vermont is acknowledged throughout the known universe to be the home of the most spectacular fall foliage.

And inasmuch as certain ill informed media reports have implied that Vermont's legendary foliage display this year may be less spectacular than usual.

And inasmuch as Vermont's fall foliage display is always the best and brightest on this planet or any other.

We, of the Green Mountain State, hereby issue a challenge, open to all Senators, to wit:

That as of twelve noon on October 1, 1999, the fall foliage in Vermont will be the most colorful, most spectacular, and most photogenic of any venue on Earth.

And inasmuch as any challenge worth issuing deserves to be honored with a prize, we of the Green Mountain State hereby offer as proof of our challenge the quality of ten gallons of last spring's Vermont's finest Grade A Fancy Maple Syrup from Nebraska Knoll Sugar Farm of Stowe, Vermont, to be collected in Stowe.

Respectfully tendered, the Stowe Area Association.

I don't know about where you come from, but 10 gallons of Vermont Fancy Maple Syrup are worth their weight in gold! I would like to see anyone try and meet that challenge.

From Bennington to Derby Line, from Fair Haven to St. Johnsbury, in the months of September and October Vermont's Green Mountains become a painter's palette of rich colors. Nothing refreshes the soul as we head into the cold winter months like the invigorating rush one gets from a visit to Vermont when she is decked out in prime foliage.

The brisk autumn weather and the breathtaking beauty of nature's fall canvass are unparalleled anywhere in the 50 States, or even anywhere in the world. Come see for yourself.

Mr. President, before I came to the Chamber, I received word that my esteemed colleague from the State of New York, Senator SCHUMER, has risen to the Vermont Foliage Challenge. Senator SCHUMER has offered 10 gallons of New York apple cider to our 10 gallons of Vermont Maple Syrup, stating that the foliage in the Empire State "will outshine the challenging leaves found in Vermont during this and every October." Anybody who has looked at apple leaves in the fall and maple leaves in the fall realizes there is no way to compare them. I am sure he was not referring to that. I am delighted to hear that the challenge has been accepted, and I am looking forward to enjoying a nice, tall, cold glass of New York apple cider later in the fall. I would like to mention that 10 gallons of maple syrup is not quite comparable to 10 gallons of apple cider, especially considering that it takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of maple syrup. But this evens the odds, as it is about a million-to-one chance that Vermont will come out on the short end of the stick in this wager.

Mr. President, Mr. SCHUMER, who I think probably has some insecurity in making this challenge, whisked off to New York and is unable to be here to

give his statement. But to acknowledge his courage in accepting the challenge, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SCHUMER's statement be printed in the RECORD.

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

• Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today my esteemed colleague from Vermont stood in praise of the beauty of his fine State during the fall season. Nothing, he argued, could compare with the sight of the Green Mountain State's autumnal foliage. To that end, he reported a challenge issued by his fine constituents in Stowe; that on October 1 of this year, the changing leaves of Vermont would reign supreme.

I represent a contender to this challenge whose autumn beauty is destined to win any comparison with its bright flying colors of yellow, red, and orange. I am proud to represent the State of New York in this Senate, the Empire State, whose foliage will outshine the changing leaves found in Vermont during this and every October.

New York's fall splendor has been captured by a wide variety of artists, from the landscape painters of the Hudson River School to the soulful jazz of Vernon Duke's "Autumn in New York." I point to such representations as proof of our superiority in this venue, and invite any skeptics to visit the Empire State themselves. They will enjoy the breathtaking grandeur of the Catskills, or happily succumb to the peaceful serenity of an autumn day's drive along Interstate 87 in the Adirondack Mountains. From our wineries to our apple orchards, nothing can compare to the glory of Upstate New York in the fall.

In fact, speaking of apples, I recall that my esteemed Vermont colleague brought a prize to the table from which he issued his challenge. To the State possessing the finest foliage on the first of October, he said, would go 10 gallons of Vermont Fancy Maple Syrup. Mr. President, it is only appropriate that the Empire State bring its own prize to this competition. To that end, I hereby offer as proof of our greatness 10 gallons of New York's finest apple cider, gleaned from the 25 million bushels produced by the Empire State every year. After all, while maple syrup is truly a product of Vermont's spring rejuvenation, apple cider is evidence of the glory of New York's fine fall. •

THERE IS NO SURPLUS

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, yesterday the Republican majority continued to try and create a strategy to embarrass President Clinton and those Members of Congress that opposed the so-called tax-cut bill. I found their strategy quite ironic that while this country is less than 20 days away from the end of a fiscal year when the U.S. Government will spend more than \$100 billion than it takes in that the Republicans are insisting on giving tax