

as Senators and we are failing in our duty to the Federal court.

Let us all take a deep breath and think about that and go back to doing what we should—not for this President or any past incident, but for all Presidents, present and future, and for all Senates, present and future, and for the American people, and for the greatest Nation on Earth, present and future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, the Communist party is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the People's Republic of China on October 1. Unfortunately, many Chinese people have little reason to celebrate. Indeed, this is not a celebration of the Chinese people but an orchestrated celebration of the Communist party—a party of purges.

From the formative decade at Yanan, where the party was headquartered, and Mao Tse-tung soundly crushed challenges to his power; to the killing of hundreds of landlords in the 1950s; to the anti-rightist purging of half a million people following the Hundred Flowers period and during the Great Leap Forward; to the Cultural Revolution, during which millions were murdered or died in confinement, to the massacre at Tiananmen Square just ten years ago—the Communist party has sustained its existence not by the consent of the people, but through the violent elimination of dissent.

Even today, we see the party of purges in action on a daily basis. The Communist party is deeply engaged in a piercing campaign to silence the voices of faith and freedom—to purge from society, anyone they see as a threat to their power. The Chinese government continues to imprison members of the Chinese Democracy Party. In August, the government sentenced Liu Xianbin to thirteen years in prison on charges of subversion. His real crime was his desire for democracy. Another Democracy Party member, Mao Qingxiang, was formally arrested in September after being held in detention since June. He will likely languish in prison for ten years because of his desire to be free. I could go on, but some human rights groups estimate that there could be as many as 10,000 political prisoners suffering in Chinese prisons. The party is determined to purge from society, those people it finds unsavory.

And the Chinese government will not tolerate people worshipping outside its

official churches. So when it began cracking down on the Falun Gong meditation group, which it considers a cult, the government used this inexcusable action to perpetrate another—an intensified assault on Christians. In August, the government arrested thirty-one Christian house church members in Henan province. Henan province must be a wellspring of faith because over 230 Christians have been arrested there since October. Now I am concerned that eight of these House church leaders may face execution if they are labeled and treated as leaders of a cult. Let me say clearly and unequivocally that the eyes of the international community are watching. I hope that these peaceful people will be released.

In the months leading up to this fiftieth anniversary celebration, everything and everyone has been swept aside to cast a glamorous light on the Communist party. But the reality is quite ugly. Hundreds of street children, homeless, and mentally and physically disabled people have been rounded up and forced into Custody and Repatriation centers across the country. They are beaten, they are given poor food in unsanitary conditions, and they must pay rent.

In fact, only 500,000 people will be allowed to participate in the celebration in Beijing. Non-Beijing residents cannot enter the city and migrant workers have been sent home. They will not be able to see the Communist Party in all its glory, as it displays the DF-31 intercontinental ballistic missile and other arms, nor will they see the tanks rolling past Tiananmen Square. And Tibetans in Lhasa, who certainly do not want to celebrate, are being forced to participate under threat of losing their pay or their pensions.

This gilded celebration will not obscure the corrosion beneath. We must recognize the nature of this regime. We must never turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to cries of those suffering in China. We must be realistic when we deal with the Chinese government.

So when Time Warner chairman Gerald Levin courts President Jiang Zemin even when Time Magazine's China issue is banned, when our top executives are silent on human rights, when we put profit over principle, we are shielding our eyes from the stark reality of persecution in China. As Ronald Reagan said, “. . . we demean the valor of every person who struggles for human dignity and freedom. And we also demean all those who have given that last full measure of devotion.”

Mr. President, it is my sincere hope and desire that in the next fifty years, the Chinese people will truly have something to celebrate. I hope that they will no longer be suppressed by a regime that extracts dissent like weeds from a garden, but that they will be able to enjoy the fruits of democracy.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 30, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,656,270,901,615.43 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-six billion, two hundred seventy million, nine hundred one thousand, six hundred fifteen dollars and forty-three cents).

Five years ago, September 30, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,692,750,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred ninety-two billion, seven hundred fifty million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 30, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$481,743,000,000 (Four hundred eighty-one billion, seven hundred forty-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,174,527,901,615.43 (Five trillion, one hundred seventy-four billion, five hundred twenty-seven million, nine hundred one thousand, six hundred fifteen dollars and forty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

REAUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of S. 1653, which would reauthorize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. As an original cosponsor of this important legislation, I would like to applaud the excellent work of Senator CHAFEE and the Foundation to conserve the fish, wildlife, and plant resources of the United States.

The Foundation was created by Congress in 1984 to promote improved conservation and sustainable use of our country's natural resources. Since then, it has awarded over 2,400 grants, using \$101 million in federal funds, which it matched with \$189 million in nonfederal funds, putting a total of over \$290 million on the ground to promote environmental education, protect habitats, prevent species from becoming endangered, restore wetlands, improve riparian areas, and conserve native plants. The hallmark of this outstanding organization is forging partnerships between the public and private sectors—involving the government, private citizens, and corporations—to address the root causes of environmental problems. This reauthorization will allow the Foundation to continue its valuable work throughout the country.

Besides being an important link between groups with differing interests in natural resources, the Foundation is an extremely effective tool for stretching scarce federal dollars. The Foundation was created by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, which stipulates that the Foundation must match any federal money appropriated to it on a one-to-one basis. The Foundation does the Act one better. It has an internal policy of matching federal funds at least two-to-one with money from individuals, corporations, state and local governments,