President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND]; the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee [Mr. WARNER]; the Chairman of the Energy Committee [Mr. MURKOWSKI]; three members and the ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee: the distinguished Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR], Mr. SMITH of Oregon and Mr. BROWNBACK, and Senator BIDEN; two Senators who I consider among the most knowledgeable on China in the Senate, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BAUCUS; and one of our newest members, Senator CLINTON.

I hope that we will act to put the Senate on record on this issue.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, April 20, 2001, the Federal debt stood at $5,713,631,148,647.61, Five trillion, seven hundred thirteen billion, six hundred thirty-one million, one hundred forty-eight thousand, six hundred forty-seven dollars and sixty-one cents.

One year ago, April 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at $5,707,061,000,000 Five trillion, seven hundred seven billion, sixty-one million.

Fifteen years ago, April 20, 1986, the Federal debt stood at $1,962,745,000,000, One trillion, nine hundred sixty-two billion, seven hundred forty-five million.

Twenty-five years ago, April 20, 1976, the Federal debt stood at $604,399,000,000, Six hundred four billion, three hundred ninety-nine million, which reflects a debt increase of more than $5 trillion, $5,109,232,148,647.61, Five trillion, one hundred nine billion, two hundred thirty-two million, one hundred forty-eight thousand, six hundred forty-seven dollars and sixty-one cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, 25 years ago the National Medical Association and other prominent organizations endorsed the development of the Medical School at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. This came in light of studies that revealed first, a severe shortage of African American and other minority physicians in the United States, particularly in Georgia and second, that African Americans suffered disproportionately from major diseases. Since its inception, Morehouse School of Medicine has worked to help solve our nation's health care crisis by graduating top-quality physicians who dedicate themselves to serving the more than 32 million people in this country who live in medically neglected communities. More than 80 percent of Morehouse School of Medicine graduates practice in underserved communities. Each year, the School graduates five times the national average of African Americans completing their studies at accredited medical schools in this country.

Since 1975, Morehouse School of Medicine has grown from an entry class of 25 students to a current 40 students per class. Each year, over 20,000 Georgians who are disadvantaged are served by approximately 50 community health promotion projects sponsored by Morehouse School of Medicine. These projects include prevention initiatives associated with substance abuse, teen pregnancy, geriatric services, cancer, lead poisoning and violence prevention. In addition to the Medical School's activities in community health promotion, Morehouse School of Medicine provides about 25,000 patient encounters for approximately 10,000 people per year in community clinics throughout metropolitan Atlanta area. The student body of Morehouse School of Medicine continues to excel and 100 percent of the institution's family medicine and surgery residents passed their board exams in their first sitting for 2 years in a row.

These accomplishments stem in part from the strong leadership of Morehouse School of Medicine's founding dean and president, Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., who has been with the Medical School since its inception. Aside from his years in Washington as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Dr. Sullivan has dedicated his life's work to producing top-quality physicians. During his tenure, Morehouse School of Medicine established several programs. These include a 4-year undergraduate medical education program, seven residency programs and several centers of excellence including the National Center for Primary Care, the Neuroscience Institute, the Cardiovascular Institute and the NASA/Space Medicine and Life Science Research Center, the first of its kind at a minority medical institution.

Dr. Sullivan has worked tirelessly to provide vision and direction for the institution's future, while continuing to preserve the very best traditions of its past. Morehouse School of Medicine, the State of Georgia and our Nation are truly blessed to have his leadership.•

TRIBUTE TO THE POSTAL EMPLOYEES OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PERFORMANCE CLUSTER

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Postal Employees of the New Hampshire Performance Cluster, a group of dedicated public servants who have been recognized for exemplary performance of service duties. On April 3rd of this year, The Postal Employees of the New Hampshire Performance Cluster were recognized with the Postal Service's highest award, the Chief Operating Officer Award for overall excellence in the area of customer satisfaction.

New Hampshire Postal Employees have been honored along with four other districts in the nation receiving the Order of the Yellow Jersey Award for Excellence in customer service. This prestigious award is based on the percentage of residential customers who rated the postal service employees as excellent in four areas: overall performance, courteous and friendly clerks, consistency of mail delivery and accuracy of mail delivery.

The Postal Employees of the New Hampshire Performance Cluster have provided dedicated service to the citizens of our state. The people of our state look upon them with tremendous gratitude for all that they have done.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve the Postal Employees of the New Hampshire Performance Center in the United States.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC–1365. A communication from the General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General and the designation of an Acting Inspector General; to the Committee on Intelligence.

EC–1366. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certification of Evidence for Proof of Service'' (RIN2900–AJ55) received on April 18, 2001; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–1367. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report covering those cases in which equitable relief was granted in calendar year 2000; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–1368. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General Strategic Plan for 2001 through 2006; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–1369. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule