

the 1992 Energy Policy Act, it is time to consider nationwide use of RFG.

According to the GAO report, the potential for RFG with oxygenates to displace petroleum consumption is significant. GAO expects that by the year 2000 about 305,000 barrels per day of petroleum will be displaced by oxygenates. This amounts to about 37 percent of the 10 percent petroleum displacement goal established by Congress in the 1992 Energy Policy Act.

GAO noted in its report that if all gasoline in the country were reformulated, the Nation could displace 762,000 barrels of petroleum per day by 2000, and thus meet nearly all of the 10 percent petroleum displacement goal. Moreover, despite predictions by the oil industry that RFG would cost consumers over 13 cents per gallon more than conventional gasoline, GAO found that the actual cost to consumers has been negligible.

The environmental potential of an expanded RFG program is extraordinary. In the future, RFG will be even cleaner. In the year 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency will implement RFG Phase II, which will require further reductions in emissions of volatile organic compounds and toxic pollutants, as well as reductions of nitrous oxides.

Expanding RFG nationwide will bring these clean air benefits to new areas of the country. Moreover, since air pollution is transported over vast distances, adopting a nationwide RFG program will help further reduce pollution in areas already using RFG to lower ozone levels.

A nationwide program would achieve these air quality benefits at low cost. GAO concluded that Phase II RFG will be one of the most cost-effective measures available to control low-level ozone pollution. With the additional petroleum displacement benefits associated with nationwide use of RFG, there seems to be no reason why we should not move in that direction.

Finally, the GAO report demonstrates that continuing research into ethanol, an oxygenate used in RFG, is critical. GAO confirmed that substantial progress has been made in reducing the cost to produce ethanol. Since 1980, the cost to produce corn-based ethanol has dropped from \$2.50 per gallon to about \$1.34 per gallon. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will review the findings of the General Accounting Office and continue to support the research and incentives that have proven so successful in lowering the cost of ethanol production and encouraging the development of a strong domestic industry. As GAO has shown, these investments provide important dividends in terms of cleaner air and greater energy independence for the United States.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I think so often of that November evening long

ago, in 1972, when the television networks reported that I had been elected as a U.S. Senator from North Carolina. I remember well the exact time that the announcement was made and how stunned I was.

It had never really occurred to me that I would be the first Republican in history to be elected by the people of North Carolina to the U.S. Senate. When I got over my astonishment, I thought about a lot of things. And I made some commitments to myself one of which was that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

I have kept that commitment and it has proved enormously meaningful to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 66,000 young people with whom I have visited during the 23 years I have been in the Senate.

A large percentage of them are greatly concerned about the total Federal debt which back in February exceeded \$5 trillion for the first time in history. Congress created this monstrous debt which coming generations will have to pay.

Mr. President, the young people who visit with me almost always like to discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 25, 1992. I decided that it was important that a daily record be made of the precise size of the Federal debt which, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 24, stood at \$5,173,226,283,802.71. On a per capita basis, the existing Federal debt amounts to \$19,494.49 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt in the 24 hours since my report yesterday shows an increase of more than one billion dollars (\$1,562,134,965.80, to be exact). That one-day Federal debt increase involves enough money to pay the college tuitions for 231,633 students for 4 years.

CHIAPAS—A TEST FOR MEXICO'S FUTURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago, a group of armed rebels in the state of Guerrero, Mexico marched down from the mountains and into the city of Coyuca de Benitez, not far from the resort town of Acapulco. Then, last week, several armed men attacked a Mexican army vehicle, killing one civilian in the crossfire. They were arrested, and the Mexican army is scouring Guerrero's countryside looking for other members of the insurgent group, known as the "Popular Revolutionary Army," in an attempt to prevent future outbreaks of violence in the region.

These are just the most recent of several demonstrations of civil unrest in

Mexico since the 1994 uprising of the "Zapatista National Liberation Army" in Chiapas. In states like Tabasco, Puebla, and San Luis Potosi, indigenous people are increasingly staging protests, and resorting to violence, to expose the inequity and racism of which they have been victims for generations.

Unfortunately, while the Mexican Government has reportedly tripled its assistance to Chiapas in the 2 years since the Zapatista uprising, those efforts have produced little in the way of real economic and social change. The disparities that exist between Chiapas and the rest of Mexico are still as appalling as they were 2 years ago. While President Zedillo has recognized that poverty and the lack of access to justice among indigenous populations are matters which must be addressed, his administration has taken few effective steps to do so.

Chiapas is one of Mexico's richest states, contributing oil, electric energy, cattle, coffee, cocoa, sugar, and various fruits and vegetables to domestic and international markets. Yet the majority of the people there lack adequate food and shelter, or access to education and basic medical care.

Where the government built roads in Chiapas, the roads were often of poor quality. Health clinics lack beds and experienced doctors. Schools lack materials and trained teachers. The uneven distribution of wealth and the unjust distribution of land are at the root of the civil unrest that has captured the world's attention.

Over 50 percent of Mexico's hydroelectric power is generated in Chiapas, yet less than one-third of all houses there have electricity.

Coffee producers, with the help of over 80,000 Chiapanecos, almost all of whom are Mayan Indians, produce 35 percent of Mexico's coffee each year. While over 50 percent of the coffee is exported to markets in the United States and Europe for over three times its value in Chiapas, indigenous laborers, paid as little as \$2 per day, rarely see any of that profit.

Cattle has become an increasingly profitable industry, but while nearly 3 million head are exported each year, few of the people in indigenous communities can afford to buy meat. There are reports that half of Chiapanecos are malnourished, and in the highlands and jungle areas the percentage is even higher.

Half of the homes in Chiapas do not have potable water and two-thirds lack sewage systems. There is one doctor for every 2,000 people. Chiapas has the highest number of deaths per 100,000 people than any other state in Mexico. Infant mortality, is close to double the national average.

The illiteracy rate is five times the national average, and the percentage of students not attending school is more than three times the national average.

The situation in Chiapas stems in part from a government that has deliberately excluded the indigenous people

of Mexico from the political process. While the Zapatista uprising may have given them a voice in the national and international press, they still lack a real voice in their own government.

Politics in Chiapas has been dominated by corrupt local and state officials influenced by the Civil Defense Committee. The Committee is comprised of the few families that own virtually all that is worth owning in the state. Human rights groups including Amnesty International and Americas' Watch have documented accounts of torture and political violence by Chiapas authorities since the mid-1980's.

The majority of the adult population in Chiapas is illiterate. Peasants there have reported that they don't vote, but the ruling PRI party picks up their voting cards and votes for them. In the 1988 elections which former President Salinas won by a narrow margin, no state gave the PRI a greater percentage of the vote than Chiapas.

What Chiapas needs is increased democratization of the Mexican political system, and greater representation for indigenous people. Until that occurs, political instability will discourage the investment that is necessary to provide jobs for the people there.

The United States loaned Mexico billions of dollars during the economic crisis of 1994. That decision was controversial in the United States, and had it been put to a vote in the Congress it might have been defeated. If the Mexican Government does not act aggressively to strengthen the institutions of democracy and reform its economy, political and economic instability will increase. If the peso collapses again, would the United States bail out Mexico a second time? I would not want to bet my house on it.

While the Mexican Government needs to do more to provide the people of Chiapas with basic services like potable water and roads that are passable in the rainy season, what they need most, and what will ultimately bring about the kind of fundamental changes that are needed in order to avoid further violence and instability, is economic investment and a meaningful say in the political process.

Despite widespread poverty in states like Chiapas, the Mexican elite have prospered, from Mexico's enormous oil wealth and the growth in manufacturing during the past two decades. The beneficiaries of this wealth need to recognize that the future stability and prosperity of their country depends on them. Not the United States. Not anyone else. They alone can provide the financial investment and jobs that are needed to overcome the desperation and inequities that have led to violence in places like Chiapas and Guerrero.

Mr. President, in addition to our geographical linkage, the United States and Mexico are closely linked both economically and culturally. There is a large population of Mexican-Americans living in the United States, and we are

taking unprecedented measures to stem the flow of illegal immigrants from Mexico who risk arrest and even death in search of a better life in the north. There is no escaping the fact that events in Mexico, even in seemingly distant states like Chiapas, have enormous implications for our own country.

So we must encourage the Mexican Government, and representatives of Mexico's private sector, to address these problems with the utmost urgency. Benito Juarez, Emiliano Zapata, and Mexico's other great political visionaries and revolutionaries, gave their people hope for a better life. But for many, that hope has faded, and for some, who have resorted to violence, it has died. They have nothing left to lose.

With Mexico's population continuing to grow, putting increasing pressure on government services and the country's resources, the situation in places like Chiapas has reached a crisis point. But with creative thinking and the recognition that those who have prospered have a responsibility to help those who have been left out, Mexico's business elite has an opportunity to play a key role in finally turning the goals of the Mexico revolution into a reality.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN DAVIS AND HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in every community there is someone who has changed the direction of events, who has shaped the future of its residents. Burlington, VT has John Davis. This month John is saying goodbye to the City of Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office CEDO where he has spent the last 10 years making Burlington a better place to live and work. As Housing Director for most of that period John has worked to make affordable housing a reality for countless low and moderate income people living in Vermont's most expensive housing market. Since 1994 John has also been the driving force behind the effort to revitalize Burlington's Old North End through its designation as Vermont's only Enterprise Community.

When President Clinton first announced the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Initiative, John was quick to see the opportunity to turn around the decline of Burlington's Old North End. There was no shortage of roadblocks on that long road to winning the designation of Enterprise Community. I think that only John's unique mix of grass-roots organizing skills, MIT professor's intelligence, and every day Vermonter common sense could have brought together all of the disparate groups involved to develop a plan for building a "New" North End where the "Old" one stood before.

There was little doubt in my mind that the project, under John's leadership, would succeed when I walked with HUD Secretary Cisneros down Archibald Street in the fall of 1994. Already there were signs of the changes to come, in particular the block long mural depicting neighborhood residents supporting the initiative, a

mural John's family and many area residents worked on. One year later Secretary Cisneros walked down a very different Archibald Street in a very different neighborhood and pronounced Burlington's "New" North End the most advanced Enterprise Community he had visited.

In December of 1994 when I was honored to announce that the Old North End in Burlington had been selected as an "Enterprise Community", John Davis was quick to attribute that success to the people of the Old North End saying "The reason we won was not because of the problems. . . . We won because of our assets." Well, John was most definitely one of those assets, as was the community enthusiasm, cooperative spirit, and sense of hope he helped to bring out in a part of the city that many had written off. That renewed spirit has continued to grow and will sustain the renewal of the New North End when John has moved on.

I wish John the best of luck in whatever challenge he takes on next. I know his wife Bonnie Acker and his daughter Dia are looking forward to seeing more of him in the weeks ahead, but he will certainly be missed by those of us (and there are many) who have been lucky enough to work with John during his 10 years of service to the city and people of Burlington, VT.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSOR—H.R. 3603

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor to amendment No. 4974 to H.R. 3603, the fiscal year 1997 agriculture appropriations bill.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:25 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3814. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3005) to amend the Federal securities laws in order to promote efficiency and capital formation in the financial markets, and to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to promote more efficient management of mutual funds, protect investors, and provide more effective and less burdensome regulation, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. BLILEY, Mr. FIELDS of Texas, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. SCHAEFER, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. FRISA, Mr. WHITE, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. GORDON, Ms. FURSE, and Mr. KLINK as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3734) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997, and agrees to the conference