

(One trillion, eighty-four billion, two hundred sixty-one million)

Twenty-five years ago, July 21, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$434,462,000,000 (Four hundred thirty-four billion, four hundred sixty-two million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,929,220,543,589.87 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty-nine billion, two hundred twenty million, five hundred forty-three thousand, five hundred eighty-nine dollars and eighty-seven cents) during the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOANNE RAINSFORD

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, throughout the Nation, whenever a community leader passes, his or her death is noticed and mourned by many. In small towns, however, the impact of such a loss is always magnified, for in such places, the deceased is more than a well known, but distant figure, he or she is a neighbor, a member of the local church, and more often than not, a friend. Such was the case on June 29 when Edgefield, SC suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of my friend, Joanne Tisdale Rainsford.

Mrs. Rainsford first came to Edgefield to work as a teacher, and it was not long before she became a well known and liked figure around town. Her civic mindedness led her to become involved in a multitude of organizations and causes, and though not originally from Edgefield, she worked hard on behalf of her new hometown. Among other groups, the Edgefield United Way, the Olde Edgefield Trade Association, and the Edgefield Community Development Association all benefited from the efforts of this tireless, devoted, and enthusiastic woman.

One of the cornerstones of a small town is the community newspaper, and Joanne Rainsford played an important role in helping produce the local paper, the Citizen News. In the mid-1980's, she spent about a year and a half as the managing editor of that publication, and she later became the president of Edgefield County Communications, the parent company of the Citizen News.

Though Mrs. Rainsford enjoyed many pursuits, she was particularly interested in history, and she worked hard to save and showcase the unique and rich history of Edgefield County. In recognition of her service as their president, and her leadership in any number of preservation projects, the Edgefield County Historical Society just this past June voted to rename its museum the Joanne T. Rainsford Heritage Center. This was an honor of which I know she was especially proud and the action of the society is all the more meaningful as they approved this recognition shortly before Mrs. Rainsford's death.

Whether it was through her work as a teacher, in her role as a newspaper executive, or as a civic booster, Joanne Rainsford worked hard to promote

Edgefield, to build the local economy, and to make her hometown an even more prosperous and desirable place to live. She was an articulate proponent of the heritage corridor, a unique project that blends history and tourism together over a 14-county region in our State stretching from the coast to the mountains. I was so impressed by her desire to bolster tourism, the No. 1 industry in the Palmetto State, that I appointed her as a delegate from South Carolina to the White House Conference on Tourism.

Mr. President, many people in Edgefield and throughout South Carolina mourned the passing of Mrs. Joanne T. Rainsford, as she was a woman who was liked and admired by all those who knew her. She was also a woman who approached life with great enthusiasm and who sought to leave her mark on the world through projects that benefited others. I can say without reservation that the work of the late Mrs. Rainsford had a positive effect on Edgefield County and that her work strengthened that community in many different ways. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of an article from the Citizen News be included in the RECORD following my remarks, it very nicely captures Mrs. Rainsford's accomplishments and her spirit. Her husband, Ben Rainsford; her stepchildren, Neely and Todd; her two sisters, Nancy and Mary; and all her friends and relatives, have my deepest condolences on this terribly sad event. We shall all miss Joanne Rainsford.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JULIA RAVENEL DOUGHERTY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am saddened to report the passing of a longtime friend, a great supporter, and one of the stalwart members of the South Carolina Republican Party, Mrs. Julia Ravenel Dougherty.

In the not so distant past, South Carolina was what was known as a one party State, where a victory in a primary election was all one needed to secure office, and where a significant segment of the population had no outlet for its views, opinions, and politics. All of that began to change in the 1960's when a cadre of forward looking politicians and interested citizens began to fight to create a true Republican Party in South Carolina.

One of the pioneers in that effort was Mrs. Dougherty, who is roundly recognized as having been a woman of great humor, strong organizational skills, and inexhaustible energy, as well as someone who was a tremendous motivator. From the Charleston County Republican Party to the gubernatorial races, and from my own Senate campaigns to the bids of GOP candidates for the White House, Julia Dougherty was always eager to roll up her sleeves and to lend her considerable talents to an election effort. Her loyalty to the party, and activism on its behalf, earned her not only the thanks

and admiration of countless people, but also an appointment as a delegate to the 1964 and 1968 Republican Conventions. Her loyalty and efforts were further recognized when in 1968, she was a member of the electoral college, and cast her vote for Richard M. Nixon.

In addition to her partisan political work, Mrs. Dougherty had a strong commitment to public service, and over the years, she made many contributions to building South Carolina into an even better, safer, and more prosperous State for all its citizens. She was the first female to ever serve on the South Carolina Highway Commission, and in that role, she was a forceful advocate for the modernization of the highway patrol, as well as the increased professionalization of that force. She later served as the State chairwoman of President Carter's friendship force, and during the Reagan administration, she served on an advisory committee to the Department of Transportation. Truly an impressive record, and one of which I know Julia was justifiably proud.

Despite her great love for politics and her commitment to public service, Mrs. Dougherty never sought elected office herself. This is truly a shame for I believe she would have made even more contributions to the Palmetto State as an elected official, and she certainly would have set a high standard for ability, integrity, and dedication for others to follow.

The death of Julia Ravenel Dougherty leaves a tremendous void in South Carolina politics and life in the lowcountry. Her family, which includes her cousin and my good friend, State Senator Arthur Ravenel; husband Francis; son Park; daughters Renee and Frances; and four grandchildren, all have my deepest sympathies. Their wife, mother, grandmother, and cousin will be missed by all those who knew this most remarkable woman.

LOUISIANA SENATE ELECTION CONTEST

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, nearly 3 months ago, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration voted to begin a preliminary investigation to determine the factual basis, if any, for a contest of the 1996 Senate election in Louisiana. I want to take a few minutes today to review where the committee stands in this matter, how we got there, and why I believe it is past the time to bring an end to this investigation and to dismiss the petition of Louis "Woody" Jenkins contesting the November 1996 Senate election in Louisiana.

The Rules Committee is currently faced with a decision: whether or not to allow an election contest to proceed, under the Senate's authority and duty under the Constitution, without any evidence of fraud or irregularities affecting the outcome.

This is not the first such decision the committee has faced in this matter.