

Mr. McCAIN. Before my colleague from Oregon leaves the floor, I express to him, first of all, my appreciation for his kind remarks, which I do not deserve. Second of all, I thank him for all the work that he has done on this legislation. Without him and his incredibly active participation in this effort, we would not have been able to reach the goal of getting a bill through the Commerce Committee and now to the floor of the Senate.

But most importantly, I thank the Senator from Oregon because he was involved in this issue very long before I or most of the Members of this body were involved. He and former Congressman Synar embarked on this effort long ago. And sometimes we have a reputation, which is well deserved as politicians, of butterflying from one issue to the other and forgetting the one of yesterday for the one of today and tomorrow.

Senator WYDEN does not take that approach on any issue, but on this issue he has been steadfast. He has been courageous. And, very frankly, he has been criticized from time to time, when the mood of the country was not as it is today. There was a time when we did not know all of the details about the tobacco companies having deceived the American people. There was a time when the tobacco lobby, we all know, had a much greater influence on both sides of the Capitol than today. It was during those times that Senator WYDEN carried the torch for the children of America.

I will always be grateful to him. And history will record that Senator WYDEN was a key and vital player in that effort. So I extend my gratitude to Senator WYDEN and remind him that we have a great deal yet to do. I know I can count on him to do it.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to inform the Senate of the reason I voted "present" on the Faircloth amendment related to attorneys' fees in tobacco litigation.

I abstained on this vote because my husband's law firm is co-counsel in several lawsuits against tobacco companies filed in California state court by health and welfare trust funds.

The Ethics Committee has advised me that voting on an amendment such as this "would not pose an actual conflict of interest" under the Senate Code of Conduct.

However, I decided that this vote could create the appearance of a conflict of interest and therefore I abstained by voting "present."

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RETIREMENT OF STUART BALDERSON

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this evening, a number of us will be gathering together to honor Stuart Balderson who recently retired from the United States Senate after nearly four decades of exemplary service. I would like to take just a few moments to thank Stuart and to wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his life.

On May 23, 1960, Stuart Balderson, a twenty-two year old fresh out of the Navy, came to work in the United States Senate. At that time, Lyndon Johnson was the Majority Leader and Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House. Stuart was brought on board by Secretary of the Senate "Skeeter" Johnston and assigned a position in the Senate Finance Office. Over the course of the next 38 years, Stuart worked in every department of that office, including payroll, accounting, retirement and benefits, and legislative budgeting. In 1980, he assumed its top position, Financial Clerk of the United States Senate, and served in that capacity for the next 18 years.

Over the past 38 years, Stuart has seen a lot of history on Capitol Hill. To give you an idea of how much things have changed, when Stuart began working in the Senate, the Capitol Building was still using direct current from its own generators. You needed to use an AC adaptor if you wanted to plug in any electrical equipment, but there wasn't much electrical equipment to plug in. In those days, "computers" referred to the people who calculated the numbers rather than to any machines they used. Stuart's predecessor, Bill Ridgely, used to call those the "Bob Cratchitt" days of the Disbursing Office, when the Senate's bookkeepers, like Bob Cratchitt in Dickens' A Christmas Carol, wore green visors and armbands and sat on high stools.

A lot has changed since then. The number of Senate employees relying on the Senate Finance Office to handle their paychecks has more than doubled. Total Senate expenditures have risen from \$25.9 million in 1960 to \$583.3 million in 1997. In many ways, Stuart grew with the Senate, but the two things that always remained constant were his dedication to this institution and the financial integrity he brought to the job.

I know I speak for many other members and staff, past and present, when I say that we will miss Stuart. We commend him for his long and outstanding service and we wish him well as he retires.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 19, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,501,436,319,981.88 (Five trillion, five hundred one billion, four hundred thirty-six million, three hundred nineteen thousand, nine hundred eighty-one dollars and eighty-eight cents).

One year ago, May 19, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,344,451,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred forty-four billion, four hundred fifty-one million).

Five years ago, May 19, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,285,943,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-five billion, nine hundred forty-three million).

Ten years ago, May 19, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,523,047,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred twenty-three billion, forty-seven million).

Fifteen years ago, May 19, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,265,692,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred sixty-five billion, six hundred ninety-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,235,744,319,981.88 (Four trillion, two hundred thirty-five billion, seven hundred forty-four million, three hundred nineteen thousand, nine hundred eighty-one dollars and eighty-eight cents) during the past 15 years.

JIMMY STEWART—AND WHY HE'S REMEMBERED BY SO MANY

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, when Jimmy Stewart died last July, less than a year shy of his 90th birthday, which would have been today, millions of Americans of all ages felt they had lost a dear friend. They had grown up with great films such as "It's a Wonderful Life," "Harvey," "The Philadelphia Story," and the one that's probably many Americans' personal favorite, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

I was fortunate to get to work with Mr. Stewart during the 1970s when we were on the campaign trail across North Carolina. Dot and I will never forget travelling with him introducing him to the citizens who felt that they already knew him.

Perhaps what I like most about "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" is the manner in which Jimmy Stewart and director Frank Capra captured the timeless principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence. In describing the them of the picture, Capra said: "The more uncertain are the people of the world, the more their hard-won freedoms are scattered and lost in the winds of change, the more they need a ringing statement of America's democratic ideals."

Jimmy Stewart, Mr. President, in a sense was playing a character modeled after Abe Lincoln. According to Capra, Jefferson Smith was "tailored to the rail-splitter's simplicity, compassion, ideals, humor and unswerving moral courage under pressure."

A year ago, on the occasion of Jimmy Stewart's eighty-ninth birthday, John Meroney of Advance, N.C., wrote a Wall Street Journal essay, "A Hero Larger Than Those He Portrayed," celebrating Jimmy Stewart's life and career. I learned about John Meroney when he was a student at Wake Forest University. I am persuaded the reason Jimmy Stewart appeals to John and other young people isn't simply because Mr.