

States and defend our interests in the hardest and most courageous manner.

For this reason, and based upon the material which the GAO investigators had uncovered, I authored an amendment, which Senator GLENN cosponsored, to this year's Department of Defense Authorization bill to require the Secretary of Defense to review and modify chemical warfare defense policies and doctrine. The review calls upon DOD to address providing adequate protection from any low-level exposure, whether singly or in combination with other hazards, and whether to a single agent or to multiple agents and hazards over time. This amendment also requires the Secretary to address the reporting, coordinating, and retaining of information on possible exposures, including monitoring the health effects of those exposures by location, so that other mistakes of the Persian Gulf War are not extended to future battles. Additionally, this amendment calls upon the Secretary to develop and carry out a research program on the health effects of low-level exposures that can guide the Secretary in the evolution of policy and doctrine on low-level exposures to chemical warfare agents. I am very pleased that the amendment was retained in conference, and I look forward to the report on the review, which is due on May 1, 1999.

I am also pleased with the fine and useful work done by GAO on this report, particularly by Dr. Sushil Sharma and Mr. Jeffery Harris. I hope that the Department of Defense finds their analysis and their conclusions helpful as it begins the review mandated in the Department of Defense Authorization conference report. And finally, I thank Senator LEVIN and Senator GLENN for their interest in this matter.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 18

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending September 18, the U.S. imported 7,411,000 barrels of oil

each day, 1,115,000 barrels a day less than the 8,526,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

While this is one of the rare weeks when Americans imported slightly less foreign oil than the same week a year ago, Americans nonetheless relied on foreign oil for 54 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States imported about 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

All Americans should ponder the economic calamity certain to occur in the U.S. if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.: now 7,411,000 barrels a day at a cost of approximately \$89,006,110 a day.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 22, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,515,818,621,727.95 (Five trillion, five hundred fifteen billion, eight hundred eighteen million, six hundred twenty-one thousand, seven hundred twenty-seven dollars and ninety-five cents).

One year ago, September 22, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,378,804,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred seventy-eight billion, eight hundred four million).

Five years ago, September 22, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,395,748,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred ninety-five billion, seven hundred forty-eight million).

Ten years ago, September 22, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,587,230,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred eighty-seven billion, two hundred thirty million).

Fifteen years ago, September 22, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,354,474,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred fifty-four billion, four hundred seventy-four million) which reflects a

debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,161,344,621,727.95 (Four trillion, one hundred sixty-one billion, three hundred forty-four million, six hundred twenty-one thousand, seven hundred twenty-seven dollars and ninety-five cents) during the past 15 years.

NOMINATION OF AMY ROSEN TO AMTRAK REFORM BOARD

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, earlier today, I called in a hold on the nomination of Amy Rosen to the Amtrak Reform Board. Consistent with my policy of publicly disclosing holds, I am including the following statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, stating my reasons for placing a hold on this nomination:

I am placing a hold on the nomination of Amy Rosen to the Amtrak Reform Board because of her role as an Amtrak Board member in voting to terminate Amtrak's Pioneer route. A subsequent GAO report indicates that at the time Ms. Rosen approved terminating the Pioneer, other Amtrak routes that were even less profitable than the Pioneer were kept in service. Before I will allow Ms. Rosen's nomination to move forward, I am seeking certain assurances from Ms. Rosen that if confirmed as a member of the Amtrak Reform Board, she will insist that Amtrak make decisions about passenger rail service on the basis of objective financial criteria.

Subsequent to calling in my hold on Ms. Rosen's nomination, I and my staff had conversations with her to discuss my concerns. During those conversations, I received assurances from Ms. Rosen that as an Amtrak Board member, she would insist that decisions about Amtrak routes and services would be made on the basis of objective financial criteria and that she would work with me and other Members of Congress to address the needs of rural communities for passenger rail service. As a result of these conversations, I am withdrawing my hold on Amy Rosen's nomination to the Amtrak Reform Board.

FOREIGN CURRENCY REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following report(s) of standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 1998

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Edward J. Barron:									
United States	Dollar				2,557.75				2,557.75
Switzerland	Franc	1,737.85	1,175.00						1,175.00
Bryan Edwardson:									
United States	Dollar				2,557.75				2,557.75
Switzerland	Franc	2,045.20	1,382.83						1,382.83
Terri Snow Markwart:									
United States	Dollar				2,557.75				2,557.75
Switzerland	Franc	1,767.70	1,195.20						1,195.20