

public toilets—in short, any action other than to restrict land use.

Some have said this amendment goes too far. I think it does not. The President has plenty of exceptions that allow him to escape the impact of my amendment. There are exceptions for national security, law enforcement, health and safety, and international trade, among other things. And in the final analysis, it is the President who makes the final call as to what regulations are impacted by this law. The intent of my amendment is clear—I want to put a halt to agency actions that needlessly restrict the use of public lands.

Mr. President, I commend my colleague from Delaware, Senator ROTH, and his committee staff, particularly Frank Polk, Paul Noe, and Mickey Prosser for their efforts in reporting this regulatory moratorium legislation.

#### PRESIDENT CLINTON IMPLEMENTS THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, earlier today, President Clinton took a major step toward effective implementation of the new Violence Against Women Act, which was enacted as part of the omnibus crime control law last year.

President Clinton established a new Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice, and appointed former Iowa Attorney General Bonnie Campbell as Director of the Office. Ms. Campbell was the first woman to hold the office of attorney general in Iowa, and in that capacity, authored one of the Nation's first antistalking laws.

President Clinton also announced \$26 million in State grants and a toll-free domestic violence hotline. I was proud to be a strong supporter of the act and to be the Senate sponsor of the hotline.

I commend the President for taking this important step in the fight to end violent crimes against women. The rates of violent crimes committed against women continue to rise. Nationwide a woman is beaten every 15 seconds. Three to four million women a year are victims of family violence. In Massachusetts last year, a woman was murdered every 16 days, and in this year alone, 17 women have been murdered as a result of domestic violence.

It is clear that far more needs to be done to stop this violence. One of the most effective measures is to improve our methods of law enforcement and do more to prosecute and convict the perpetrators of these crimes.

The Violence Against Women Act provides \$1.6 billion over the next 6 years to combat such violence. Included in those funds are grants to States to train and hire more police and prosecutors for domestic violence or sexual assault units, open new crisis centers for victims, hire advocates and crisis counselors, and improve lighting for unsafe streets and parks.

These grants are a critical part of a comprehensive new effort to combat violence against women. Police need better training, so that they will make arrests when the situation warrants. Prosecutors need better training in how to work with victims, using victims' advocates when possible. Judges need to understand that domestic violence and other attacks against women are serious crimes. Often, when women are abused or beaten, the police, prosecutors, and judges fail to take the crimes seriously enough. As a result, many women are reluctant to call the police or seek help in other ways. These grants will help States address these problems.

This new law is the first comprehensive Federal effort to deal with violence against women. It protects the rights of victims. It makes it a Federal offense to cross State lines to abuse a fleeing spouse or partner. It gives victims of violent crime or sexual abuse the right to speak at the sentencing hearings of their assailants. It prohibits those facing a restraining order on domestic abuse from possessing a firearm.

I am particularly gratified by the restoration of the national, toll-free domestic violence hotline, which will be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. Before the hotline was shut down for lack of funds in 1992, it averaged over 180 calls a day, or 65,000 calls a year, during the 5 years it was in operation. The hotline is a lifeline for women in danger. The nationwide system will enable any woman in trouble to call an 800 number and be advised by a trained counselor on what to do immediately and where to go for help in her area.

I commend President Clinton for his leadership in implementing this law, and I look forward to working with the administration to continue to fight to end the tragedy of violence against women.

#### IS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the impression simply will not go away; the enormous Federal debt greatly resembles that well-known energizer bunny we see, and see, and see on television. The Federal debt keeps going and going and going—always at the expense, of course, of the American taxpayers.

A lot of politicians talk a good game—when they home to campaign—about bringing Federal deficits and the Federal debt under control. But so many of these same politicians regularly voted for one bloated spending bill after another during the 103d Congress—which could have been a primary factor in the new configuration of U.S. Senators as a result of last November's elections.

In any event, Mr. President, as of yesterday, Monday, March 20, at the close of business, the total Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at ex-

actly \$4,842,719,633,258.54 or \$18,383.05 per person.

The lawyers have a Latin expression which they use frequently—"res ipsa loquatur"—"the thing speaks for itself." Indeed it does.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Morning business is closed.

#### LEGISLATIVE LINE-ITEM VETO ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 4, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4) to grant the power to the President to reduce budget authority.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Dole amendment No. 347, to provide for the separate enrollment for presentation to the President of each item of any appropriation bill and each item in any authorization bill or resolution providing direct spending or targeted tax benefits.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes as if in morning business off the bill.

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

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEREGULATION AND COMPETITION: ITS IMPACT ON RURAL AMERICA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, when Congress passed the Communications Act in 1934, telephones were a novelty. Sixty years later, most Americans have affordable telephone service, thanks largely through a universal service system of support mechanisms. This is a success story.

Universal service has been a success because policymakers had the foresight to understand that market forces, left to their own devices, would not serve every American. Support mechanisms are necessary to ensure that every American could have access to phone service and electricity. This was true in building a nationwide phone network and it will be true in the future to deploy an advanced telecommunications network.

Today we stand at the advent of a telecommunications revolution that promises to bring an explosion of economic activity and growth in rural America that will rival the delivery of electricity to farms in the early part of the century. The information age promises to bring opportunity to previously disadvantaged areas. Until now, geography has been, a disadvantage for rural America. Much of the