

loophole by simply having begun, not completed, the process of renouncing their citizenship by the February 6 effective date.

The Ways and Means Committee knows how to set a strict effective date when it wants to. On the very bill where the controversy over the billionaires' loophole first erupted, the committee set a strict effective date to prevent Viacom, Inc., from obtaining a \$640 million break on the sale of its cable TV properties.

The committee required a binding contract to be reached by the effective date. Viacom could not meet that requirement, even though it had taken many steps over many months before the effective date to negotiate the contract.

Viacom lost the tax break because it had not taken the final step—and the same strict requirement of final action should be applied to billionaires who are in the process of renouncing their citizenship.

If they had not completed the final step by February 6, they should not be able to use the loophole.

Fortunately, the Democrats prevailed on the effective date, because of the spotlight placed on the issue. But that still did not stop them from finding an additional loophole for some of those seeking exemption.

To help these expatriates, the Republicans on the committee carved a new loophole for expatriates who become a citizen of a country in which the individual's spouse or parents were born.

In sum, at a time when Republicans in Congress are cutting Medicare, education, and other essential programs in order to pay for lavish tax cuts for the rich, they are also maneuvering to salvage this unjustified loophole for the least deserving of the superwealthy—billionaires who renounce America, after all America has done for them.

I say, this loophole should be closed now, and it should be closed tight—no ifs, ands, or buts. I intend to do all I can to see that it is.

Let us close the loophole, not just pretend it is being closed as the Ways and Means Committee bill does.

#### WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? LOOK AT THE ARITHMETIC

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the skyrocketing Federal debt, which long ago soared into the stratosphere, is in a category like the weather—everybody talks about it but scarcely anybody had undertaken the responsibility of trying to do anything about it. That is, not until immediately following the elections last November.

When the new 104th Congress convened in January, the U.S. House of Representatives quickly approved a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In the Senate all but one of the 54 Republicans supported the balanced budget amendment; only 13 Democrats supported it. Since a two-thirds vote is necessary to approve a

constitutional amendment, the proposed Senate amendment failed by one vote. There will be another vote later this year or next year.

Mr. President, as of the close of business Friday, July 7, the Federal debt—down to the penny—stood at exactly \$4,929,459,412,839.22 or \$18,712.31 for every man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA WATERMELONS: A RED, JUICY SMILE

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to a little green and red sticker on my lapel. It says, "I love watermelon." And Mr. President, I sure do.

Thanks to the hard work of South Carolina watermelon farmers like Jim Williams of Lodge in Colleton County, Senators and their aides tomorrow will be able to taste the sweet, juicy, red meat of the melon that we call smile fruit. All day Tuesday, my staff will deliver more than 500 watermelons to offices throughout the Senate.

This year, farmers in South Carolina planted more than 11,000 acres of watermelons. We produce all kinds of watermelons—Jubilees, Sangrias, Allsweets, Star Brites, Crimson Sweets, red seedless, yellow seedless, and a variety of other hybrids marketed in the Eastern United States.

Through the end of this month, farmers in Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton, and other southern South Carolina counties will harvest hundreds of thousands of watermelons. In the Pee Dee areas around Chesterfield, Darlington, and Florence Counties, the harvest will continue until about August 20.

Mr. President, the bottom line is that all of these farmers will be laboring in the heat and humidity to bring Americans what we call Mother Nature's perfect candy. Our remarkable watermelons are sweet, succulent, and, most importantly, nutritious and fatfree. However, while many of us savor the taste of juicy pink watermelons at the beach, at barbecues, and at family reunions, we often forget the work and labor that goes into producing such a delicious fruit. In fact, if you ask many children these days where watermelons come from, they will answer "the grocery store." The truth is, Mr. President, that our farmers are among the most often forgotten workers in our country. Without their dedication and commitment, our Nation would not enjoy such a wonderful selection of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other foods.

South Carolina farmers lead the way in the production of watermelons. For example, my State was a leader in the development of black plastic and irrigation to expand the watermelon growing season. By covering the earth in the spring with black plastic, farmers are able to speed up the melons' growth by raising soil temperatures. In addition, the plastic allows farmers to shut

out much of the visible light, which inhibits weed growth. In addition, I am pleased to note that the scientists at the USDA vegetable laboratory in my hometown of Charleston continue to strive to find more efficient and effective ways to produce one of our State's most popular fruits.

Therefore, as my fellow Members and their staffs feast on watermelons tomorrow, I hope they all will remember the folks in South Carolina who made this endeavor possible: Jim Williams of Williams Farms in Lodge; Les Tindal, our State agriculture commissioner; Wilton Cook of the Clemson University Extension Service in Charleston; Minta Wade of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture; and members of the South Carolina Watermelon Association and South Carolina Watermelon Board in Columbia. They all have worked extremely hard to ensure that Senators can get a taste of South Carolina.

I trust that all Senators and their staffers will savor tomorrow one of the finest examples of the excellent produce we grow in our State. I also hope to see many folks wearing their "I love watermelon" stickers in celebration of the fruit that makes everyone smile—South Carolina watermelons.

#### MILO WINTER

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today I am pleased to pay tribute to an outstanding educator, Mr. Milo Winter, of Rapid City, SD. Throughout his career, he made tremendous contributions to our State in music education.

For the past 26 years, Milo served as band director at Stevens High School. The community of Rapid City knows him for his commitment to education and his drive for excellence. However, his reputation extends far beyond the borders of our State. He is known across the United States for his work at band festivals and clinics.

To see Milo's positive effect on his students and the community, one needs only look at the achievements of the Rapid City Stevens Band. In 1975, the band was selected by the United States Bicentennial Commission to represent the United States at a music festival held in the former Czechoslovakia. This was the first performance by an American high school band behind the Iron Curtain. In 1981 and 1984, the band received first place honors at the Cherry Blossom Band Festival here in Washington, DC. The band's appearance in the 1987 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA, marked the first time a band from South Dakota performed in this world-famous parade. Perhaps the greatest honor the band has earned is the Sudler Flag of Honor. This award, presented in 1987, is one of the most prestigious awards a band can receive. To receive this award, bands must be nominated for their outstanding performance of march music and be approved by a national committee.