

the 1992 Energy Policy Act, it is time to consider nationwide use of RFG.

According to the GAO report, the potential for RFG with oxygenates to displace petroleum consumption is significant. GAO expects that by the year 2000 about 305,000 barrels per day of petroleum will be displaced by oxygenates. This amounts to about 37 percent of the 10 percent petroleum displacement goal established by Congress in the 1992 Energy Policy Act.

GAO noted in its report that if all gasoline in the country were reformulated, the Nation could displace 762,000 barrels of petroleum per day by 2000, and thus meet nearly all of the 10 percent petroleum displacement goal. Moreover, despite predictions by the oil industry that RFG would cost consumers over 13 cents per gallon more than conventional gasoline, GAO found that the actual cost to consumers has been negligible.

The environmental potential of an expanded RFG program is extraordinary. In the future, RFG will be even cleaner. In the year 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency will implement RFG Phase II, which will require further reductions in emissions of volatile organic compounds and toxic pollutants, as well as reductions of nitrous oxides.

Expanding RFG nationwide will bring these clean air benefits to new areas of the country. Moreover, since air pollution is transported over vast distances, adopting a nationwide RFG program will help further reduce pollution in areas already using RFG to lower ozone levels.

A nationwide program would achieve these air quality benefits at low cost. GAO concluded that Phase II RFG will be one of the most cost-effective measures available to control low-level ozone pollution. With the additional petroleum displacement benefits associated with nationwide use of RFG, there seems to be no reason why we should not move in that direction.

Finally, the GAO report demonstrates that continuing research into ethanol, an oxygenate used in RFG, is critical. GAO confirmed that substantial progress has been made in reducing the cost to produce ethanol. Since 1980, the cost to produce corn-based ethanol has dropped from \$2.50 per gallon to about \$1.34 per gallon. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will review the findings of the General Accounting Office and continue to support the research and incentives that have proven so successful in lowering the cost of ethanol production and encouraging the development of a strong domestic industry. As GAO has shown, these investments provide important dividends in terms of cleaner air and greater energy independence for the United States.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I think so often of that November evening long

ago, in 1972, when the television networks reported that I had been elected as a U.S. Senator from North Carolina. I remember well the exact time that the announcement was made and how stunned I was.

It had never really occurred to me that I would be the first Republican in history to be elected by the people of North Carolina to the U.S. Senate. When I got over my astonishment, I thought about a lot of things. And I made some commitments to myself one of which was that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me.

I have kept that commitment and it has proved enormously meaningful to me because I have been inspired by the estimated 66,000 young people with whom I have visited during the 23 years I have been in the Senate.

A large percentage of them are greatly concerned about the total Federal debt which back in February exceeded \$5 trillion for the first time in history. Congress created this monstrous debt which coming generations will have to pay.

Mr. President, the young people who visit with me almost always like to discuss the fact that under the U.S. Constitution, no President can spend a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

That is why I began making these daily reports to the Senate on February 25, 1992. I decided that it was important that a daily record be made of the precise size of the Federal debt which, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, July 24, stood at \$5,173,226,283,802.71. On a per capita basis, the existing Federal debt amounts to \$19,494.49 for every man, woman, and child in America on a per capita basis.

The increase in the national debt in the 24 hours since my report yesterday shows an increase of more than one billion dollars (\$1,562,134,965.80, to be exact). That one-day Federal debt increase involves enough money to pay the college tuitions for 231,633 students for 4 years.

CHIAPAS—A TEST FOR MEXICO'S FUTURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 3 weeks ago, a group of armed rebels in the state of Guerrero, Mexico marched down from the mountains and into the city of Coyuca de Benitez, not far from the resort town of Acapulco. Then, last week, several armed men attacked a Mexican army vehicle, killing one civilian in the crossfire. They were arrested, and the Mexican army is scouring Guerrero's countryside looking for other members of the insurgent group, known as the "Popular Revolutionary Army," in an attempt to prevent future outbreaks of violence in the region.

These are just the most recent of several demonstrations of civil unrest in

Mexico since the 1994 uprising of the "Zapatista National Liberation Army" in Chiapas. In states like Tabasco, Puebla, and San Luis Potosi, indigenous people are increasingly staging protests, and resorting to violence, to expose the inequity and racism of which they have been victims for generations.

Unfortunately, while the Mexican Government has reportedly tripled its assistance to Chiapas in the 2 years since the Zapatista uprising, those efforts have produced little in the way of real economic and social change. The disparities that exist between Chiapas and the rest of Mexico are still as appalling as they were 2 years ago. While President Zedillo has recognized that poverty and the lack of access to justice among indigenous populations are matters which must be addressed, his administration has taken few effective steps to do so.

Chiapas is one of Mexico's richest states, contributing oil, electric energy, cattle, coffee, cocoa, sugar, and various fruits and vegetables to domestic and international markets. Yet the majority of the people there lack adequate food and shelter, or access to education and basic medical care.

Where the government built roads in Chiapas, the roads were often of poor quality. Health clinics lack beds and experienced doctors. Schools lack materials and trained teachers. The uneven distribution of wealth and the unjust distribution of land are at the root of the civil unrest that has captured the world's attention.

Over 50 percent of Mexico's hydroelectric power is generated in Chiapas, yet less than one-third of all houses there have electricity.

Coffee producers, with the help of over 80,000 Chiapanecos, almost all of whom are Mayan Indians, produce 35 percent of Mexico's coffee each year. While over 50 percent of the coffee is exported to markets in the United States and Europe for over three times its value in Chiapas, indigenous laborers, paid as little as \$2 per day, rarely see any of that profit.

Cattle has become an increasingly profitable industry, but while nearly 3 million head are exported each year, few of the people in indigenous communities can afford to buy meat. There are reports that half of Chiapanecos are malnourished, and in the highlands and jungle areas the percentage is even higher.

Half of the homes in Chiapas do not have potable water and two-thirds lack sewage systems. There is one doctor for every 2,000 people. Chiapas has the highest number of deaths per 100,000 people than any other state in Mexico. Infant mortality, is close to double the national average.

The illiteracy rate is five times the national average, and the percentage of students not attending school is more than three times the national average.

The situation in Chiapas stems in part from a government that has deliberately excluded the indigenous people