

trillion, six hundred sixty-nine billion, five hundred thirty million.

Five years ago, July 26, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,181,675,000,000, five trillion, one hundred eighty-one billion, six hundred seventy-five million.

Ten years ago, July 26, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,558,449,000,000, three trillion, five hundred fifty-eight billion, four hundred forty-nine million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 26, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$619,492,000,000, six hundred nineteen billion, four hundred ninety-two million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,117,064,518,776.52, five trillion, one hundred seventeen billion, sixty-four million, five hundred eighteen thousand, seven hundred seventy-six dollars and fifty-two cents during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CANAL STREET STREETCAR GROUNDBREAKING

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate New Orleans on the groundbreaking of the extension of the historic Canal Street Streetcar, which will eventually connect mid-city to downtown.

This groundbreaking is truly cause for celebration. It is a product of vision and hard work. The streetcar project enriches the city by combining New Orleans tradition with 21st century innovation. The new, state-of-the-art streetcars will be child safe, air-conditioned and in full compliance with disability laws. Not only is the streetcar project important to businesses and residents of the city, but it is also important for the expansion of tourism. By providing free, safe, public transportation, the Canal Street Streetcar will alleviate traffic on Canal Street. And it will connect all who take advantage of its use to several points of pride in the city such as the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Mayor Morial and the city council, Chairman Tucker, and several members of Louisiana's congressional delegation and I have worked hard for many years to secure funding to make this project a reality. Most recently, we helped secure \$23 million for the streetcar in a transportation measure. I congratulate the local leadership for helping to make this possible. All who support this project in Congress will continue to do our part so that one day in the not-too-distant future, the streetcar will be up and running. In fact, in Washington, I will honor this dedication with an entry in the Congressional Record. The Canal Street Streetcar is a symbol of our state's rich heritage and New Orleans's eclectic character. I am proud to be a part of its restoration.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KEN KASPRISIN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I publicly thank Colonel Ken Kasprisin, who will leave his post as District Engineer and Commander of the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today, July 27. Colonel Kasprisin is one of the finest individuals I have worked with as a U.S. Senator representing North Dakota, and we will miss him after he leaves the Corps.

North Dakota and the Nation owe Colonel Kasprisin a deep debt of gratitude. He has served as Commander of the St. Paul District since July, 1998, and he has served admirably. During that period, he has helped lead our communities through several flood disasters including the chronic flood at Devils Lake, ND. Throughout it all, he has always gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Colonel Kasprisin is among the most capable leaders I have ever had the pleasure of working with. He is a true professional, and has a unique ability to walk into a difficult condition, assess the situation, and calmly, but decisively, take action. He listens carefully to people and has a leadership style that invites creative solutions to complex problems.

Colonel Kasprisin is also a man of tremendous integrity. He cares deeply about the people of this nation, and his commitment to doing the right thing is unmatched. He has often been willing to fight for the needs of common citizens, even if it meant leading an uphill fight and challenging others within the Corps.

I know that the Colonel leaves the St. Paul Corps a better organization due to his leadership. The Colonel set high standards for his team, and they delivered time and time again. Under the Colonel's leadership, we have begun the flood protection project for Grand Forks, successfully fought several spring floods throughout the Red River Valley, and have continued to provide protection to residents of Devils Lake from the rising lake water. I will not forget the incredible contributions Colonel Kasprisin has made to the people of my State and the country.

But Colonel Kasprisin's departure from the Corps does not mean he is departing from public life. FEMA Director Allbaugh has tapped him to be the new FEMA Regional Director for the Pacific Northwest Region headquartered in Seattle. The Colonel's leadership will be a valuable addition to the FEMA team, and I believe Director Allbaugh made a great choice for that important position. Colonel Kasprisin will continue to make a difference in people's lives in that position and I am pleased that he has agreed to continue his public service.

I want to again express my deep appreciation and respect for Colonel Kasprisin for his service to my state and to our nation. We in North Dakota will miss you, Colonel, but wish you all the best in your new career.●

#### RETIREMENT OF MR. PAUL JOHNSON

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated and distinguished public servant. Paul W. Johnson, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Housing, is retiring at the end of this month after over 50 years of government service.

Paul Johnson began his career with the Federal Government serving on active duty with the Corps of Engineers beginning in 1949, and served as an engineer with the Army and the Air Force until he arrived at the Pentagon in 1962.

During his nearly forty years there, Paul Johnson became an institution in the Army and in the Pentagon. Since 1983, Paul has been the senior career official in the Army responsible for military construction, family housing, base realignment and closure, real property management and disposal, and real property maintenance issues for the active duty Army; the Army National Guard; and the Army Reserve. In this capacity, Paul is responsible for the management of over \$200 billion in assets.

For decades, whenever there has been an Army installation or property issue where the Congress needed information or help, we called "PJ", because we knew we could rely on his leadership and sound judgment. And PJ did not hesitate to reciprocate and let us know when the Army needed help from the Congress to solve a problem. When you were talking to PJ, there was never any doubt that he was working to do what was best for the Army.

We will miss him, and the Army will miss him even more. I am sure all members of the Senate who have worked with Paul over the years, especially my colleagues on the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, will join me in congratulating him on his astonishing record of over half a century of public service and wish him and his family all the best as he begins a well-deserved retirement.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3095. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of President of the Government National Mortgage Association, received on July 26, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3096. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3097. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of the Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, the Air