Mississippi. Dr. Walton has served Ole Miss for nearly forty years in several capacities, ranging from a part-time English instructor in 1959 to the position of Provost from which he is retiring.

Born and raised in Neshoba County, Mississippi, Dr. Walton has been a great servant of higher education in Mississippi. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1956 with a degree in English. He then attended Ole Miss, where he obtained his master’s degree and then his doctorate. Dr. Walton’s next step was a stint as a teaching assistant. Once he got his foot in the door, he quickly gained the respect of his colleagues and began to move up in the ranks. He has demonstrated exemplary commitment to public education.

In addition to managing the demands of a career in academia, Dr. Walton has been dedicated to his family. He has always put his wife and three daughters first. One of the few of all the people he will have for his four grandchildren.

Mr. President, Dr. Walton has stood the test of time. He has adjusted to the many changes Ole Miss and our society have experienced. Dr. Walton has always stood by his principles of right and wrong, which were first professionally tested in 1962. He was one of only a handful of faculty who publicly supported James Meredith and the integration of Ole Miss. Several members of the faculty advised him not to sign a letter of support, but as Dr. Walton would say, “I felt it was the right thing for me to do.” His character was challenged early and he passed with flying colors.

Dr. Walton’s abilities and personal demeanor have made him one of the favorite administrators on campus, a fact which is evidenced by his holding several leadership positions during his tenure. I am proud of all the free time he has been described as modest and deeply principled. Often, Dr. Walton has been the one who carried the responsibility and made crucial decisions, but he shies from the spotlight, and allows others to be recognized and applauded. Today, we applaud Gerald Walton.

Mr. President, at Ole Miss, Dr. Walton has proven himself to be multi-talented. He has served the University as a teaching assistant, Assistant Professor, the Director of Freshman English, the Associate Dean and Dean of Liberal Arts, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Interim Chancellor, and finally in the position of Provost. In each of his positions, Dr. Walton has been the type of leader for whom every one of his students and colleagues would do most anything. Other contributions on his long list of accomplishments are the roles he played in organizing the first Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference and the Oxford Conference for the Book.

Mr. President, Dr. Walton is not one to brag on himself, but never thought twice about bragging on the University or his colleagues. I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor such a deserving individual. I trust that the Senate will join me in congratulating Dr. Gerald Walton on his retirement from a distinguished career at the University of Mississippi. My dear friend, Chancellor Robert C. Khayat, said it best when he was speaking of Dr. Walton. He said, “Truly, Gerald Walton can move into the next phase of his life knowing that the words, ‘Well done, my faithful servant,’ apply to him.”

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, August 2, 1999, the Federal debt stood at $5,626,552,692,300.04 (Five trillion, six hundred twenty-six billion, six hundred fifty-two million, six hundred ninety-two thousand, three hundred dollars and four cents).

Five years ago, August 2, 1994, the Federal debt stood at $4,648,620,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred forty-eight billion, six hundred twenty million).

Ten years ago, August 2, 1989, the Federal debt stood at $2,815,326,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred fifteen billion, three hundred thirty-six million, six hundred twenty-six billion, five hundred sixty-two million).

Fifteen years ago, August 2, 1984, the Federal debt stood at $1,555,502,000,000 (One trillion, five hundred fifty-two billion, five hundred fifty-two million).

Twenty-five years ago, August 2, 1974, the Federal debt stood at $475,930,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-five billion, nine hundred thirty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than $5 trillion—$5,150,622,692,300.04 (Five trillion, one hundred fifty billion, six hundred twenty-two million dollars and four cents) during the past 25 years.

TOBACCO MARKETS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the opening of the 1999 tobacco marketing season in my home state of South Carolina. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the United States is one of the world’s leading producers of tobacco. It is second only to China in total tobacco production. Tobacco is the seventh largest U.S. crop, with over 130,000 tobacco farms in the United States. In South Carolina, tobacco is the top cash crop, worth about $200 million annually. It also generates over $1 billion in economic activity for my state. Tobacco production is responsible for more than 40,000 jobs on over 2,000 farms. In fact, it accounts for about one-fourth of all crops and around 13 percent of total crop and livestock agriculture in South Carolina.

It has been a hard couple of years for tobacco farmers in my state. Last year, a settlement between the State Attorneys General and five tobacco companies was completed. This settlement has created insecurity in these farmers’ lives, as well as in their communities. Once again tobacco quota was cut this year. The cut was 17 percent, which means that these farmers have seen their quota reduced by 35 percent over the last 2 years.

In recent years, we have seen a rise in tobacco imports, as domestic purchases by companies have declined. This has had a direct effect on the economy of my state. Many of the rural towns in South Carolina have grown up around producing tobacco, and decreased demand for domestic tobacco has affected them greatly. I hope these companies will purchase more domestic tobacco and decrease the amount of tobacco they import. It is imperative for these rural communities’ economic stability that domestic tobacco purchases rise.

Mr. President, in conclusion I want to pay tribute to a great educator who has fought diligently on behalf of all Mississippi students.

Dr. Rudolph E. Waters has been employed at Alcorn State University, the nation’s oldest historically black land-grant institution since 1957. Over the past 40 years, Dr. Waters has worked tirelessly to improve education standards.

While at Alcorn State, Dr. Waters has served as Dean of Students, Dean of Instruction, Coordinator of Title III, President of Alcorn, President, and Executive Vice President. In 1964, while serving as Dean of Instruction, he was a participant in the Institute for Academic Deans at Harvard University.

Born in Brookhaven, Mississippi, Waters received his B.S.C. from DePaul University in 1954. After studying for his master’s degree at Boston University and doing a stint at Southern Illinois University, he received his Doctorate of Philosophy in 1966 from Kansas State University in 1977.

His professional affiliations include the American Association for Higher Education, the National Association of...
CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1233) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Last resort (for Daschle) amendment No. 1499, to provide emergency and income loss assistance to agricultural producers.

Lott (for Cochran) amendment No. 1500 (to Amendment No. 1499), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from North Dakota for his willingness to let the Senate resume the bill. I appreciate very much also his efforts to try to identify the ways we can develop a comprehensive response to the disaster situation and the economic crisis that exists in agriculture today.

Last evening, before the Senate adjourned, the distinguished Senator from Indiana, Mr. LUGAR, spoke for about 30 minutes, focusing the attention of the Senate, as we should be focused, on the difficulties of designing a plan to deal with this problem in agriculture that affects all commodities, all regions of the country, because there are disparities around the country in terms of economic losses, weather-related damages to crops, and market influences in the agricultural sector. All of that means some farmers are doing fairly well.

There was an article in my home State press yesterday, as a matter of fact, talking about the aquacultural industry in the State of Mississippi, and what a good year those who are producing farm-raised fish are having in comparison with the other agricultural producers in our State.

This is probably replicated in many other States. Some farmers are having a good year but many are not. We are trying to identify ways we can design a program of special assistance to deal with those catastrophic situations where the Government does need to respond. It is my hope we can design a disaster program that sends money directly to farmers who need financial assistance rather than create larger Government programs with money going into the bureaucracy, or expanding conservation programs, as the first-degree amendment would do, and instead opt for the alternative that is the second-degree amendment which I have offered that sends the money directly to farmers.

I have called this morning by one of the network radio news reporters and was asked whether or not the program we are recommending is more loans for farmers. Farmers, he had heard, do not want more loans. I assured him that is not what we were proposing. We are not proposing that farmers be given more loans. We are proposing that they be given more money, direct payments, using the vehicle of the existing farm legislation that gives authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to make direct payments to farmers in the form of transition payments. We are doubling the amount of the transition payments in this second-degree amendment. That makes up the bulk of the dollar cost of the second-degree amendment. That was decided by the Congressional Budget Office.

So I think we are on the right track in trying to identify the best way to help farmers who are in an emergency situation, to identify those who are in an emergency and to give them money in direct payments in this special situation.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, actually, I do not know whether it is a jump ball. I will be pleased to go in order, if we could do it that way. I see the Senator from Kansas was ready to speak, and the Senator from North Dakota. Can we alternate from side to side?

I ask unanimous consent to follow the Senator from Kansas. I didn’t mean to beat him to the punch. I am anxious to get in this debate.

Mr. ROBERTS. I have no objection to that whatsoever. I have about 15 or 20 minutes of remarks.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I will listen to my colleague and then ask unanimous consent I be able to follow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but if we are going to establish an order, and if there is an appropriate back and forth, I ask that I follow Senator WELLSTONE on this side of the aisle.

Mr. COCHRAN. Rather than agree to that, and I think it is a good idea to go back and forth from one side of the aisle to the other, we do not have a time agreement, and I think it is a mistake now to try to get a time agreement. Senator GRASSLEY, I know, was on the floor making notes a while ago. He stepped off the floor just now. I wouldn’t want to jeopardize his right. He has been here for some time this morning.

I hope what we can do is, if the Senator from Kansas can proceed as suggested by the Senator from Minnesota,