

straining under their last load of ruby jewels. But the jewels have been so slow this year to become ruby-colored. They remain green. And, of course, Mr. President, you might understand the greed with which I approach those succulent fruits from the tomato plant. But they have suffered this year not only from the heat, but also from the drought, and then from the recent heavy rains.

I am a fortunate farmer. My little crop is grown for pleasure, in the main. I try to furnish my own table and that of any of the grandchildren who happen to come by. My little crop is grown for pleasure. My clay pots have not been cracked by this summer's record drought, nor flooded by Hurricane Floyd. Many farmers upon whose labors my winter table depends have not been so fortunate, of course. Crops and livestock throughout the Nation have been buffeted by rather exceptional weather conditions this year, and particularly in the eastern part of the United States, from Tennessee to Vermont.

Come November, farmers are likely to be saying prayers—and I should think they probably have already been saying prayers—prayers of relief because, indeed, there were some rains still left in the heavens.

In our conference committees, Senators are working to provide assistance to our family farmers, so that they might be able to recover partially, at least, from this disastrous year and return to oversee the plowing and the calving, the planting and the lambing, the pruning and the blossoming once again, rather than giving up on their most honorable and arduous careers.

I have no doubt that the distinguished Senator who presides over the Senate this afternoon with a degree of dignity and skill, that is so rare as a day in June, knows what I am talking about because he comes from Wyoming and there are farmers there and farms. He knows when I talk about calving, lambing, pruning, planting, and plowing, these are not strange, alien words to him.

I hope that we will succeed in our efforts here in the Senate and speed up this relief to our farmers. It is much needed, and it should be on its way without delay. Those people are suffering.

The march of the seasons also brings us nearer to the close of the year. This year, that event has a special import. We have just begun—I believe it was yesterday—on the 100-day countdown to a calendar change that has spawned many nicknames, Y2K being one of the most common in the United States.

The concern over computer glitches caused by the date change certainly warrants our attention and corrective action. But the hype over Y2K and its alias, the "millennium bug," has spawned a misguided perception re-

garding the true beginning of the third millennium since the birth of our Lord. It is a small but irritating example of sloppy, careless media reporting and advertising that reject the role of informer and educator in favor of following the popular trend. This trend might be termed "the odometer theory," in which the physical act of watching all the nines roll over to zeros on a car's odometer becomes a symbolic ritual unrelated to how well the car is or is not running. Watching 1999—1-9-9-9—roll over to 2-0-0-0 may be a rare event that warrants a new year's party, but it does not truly signify anything except a new year.

To be formal, accurate, and correct, we must not confuse, as so many are presently confusing, January 1, 2000, with the beginning of the new millennium, which it is not. January 1, 2000, does not begin the new millennium, unless we wish history to say that the second millennium contained only 999 years.

When the Christian calendar, observed in the United States and, indeed, in most of the world, was established in the 6th century by the Scythian monk, chronologist, and scholar Dionysius Exiguus, died A.D. 556, he began his calendar with January 1, year 1. Thus, the third millennium will begin on January 1, 2001, not 2000. Not 2-0-0-0. So forget it. The coming year of 2000 is not the beginning of the next millennium. It is only the end of the current millennium. And this coming January is not the beginning of the 21st century. The year 2000 merely closes out the 20th century. Otherwise, we lose a year somewhere along the line—a good old fiddle tune. Somewhere along the line, we are going to throw away a year.

This may be the new math, but according to the old math, there are 100 years in every century for it to be a complete century, and there are 1,000 years in every millennium to complete a millennium. So let's be more accurate.

We may party, we may think, we may say the millennium begins next year. So on December 31 of this year, when the clock strikes 12 midnight, there are those who may wish to bring out the champagne and say: Ah, this is the new millennium!

It is not. We may party like it is, this December, but I caution everyone against living it up as if the world were going to end or you may face a very embarrassing morning after.

I thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me a few minutes to set the record straight. There it is. Unless the new math says that 999 years constitute a millennium, and that 99 years constitute a century, unless that is a given, we have to wait another year before the beginning of the third millennium.

Let's set the record straight on that score. It may seem like a small thing,

just a little thing, the cranky ranting of a cranky older fellow. The Bible says "the little foxes that spoil the vines." I am talking about one of those little foxes.

I am confident that others share my desire for accuracy, and my suspicion that reporters and commentators and public figures who fail on a fact so readily checked may be sloppy with other facts as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until noon on Monday.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:09 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 27, 1999, at 12 noon.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 24, 1999:

##### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

A.J. EGGENBERGER, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2003. (REAPPOINTMENT)  
JESSIE M. ROBERSON, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2002. VICE HERBERT KOUTS, TERM EXPIRED.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 24, 1999:

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICER FOR REAPPOINTMENT AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 152:

##### To be general

GEN. HENRY H. SHELTON, 0000.

##### NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH W. DYER, JR., 0000.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING MICHAEL L. COLOPY, AND ENDING EVELINE F. YAOTIU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON AUGUST 3, 1999.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY, UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 9333(B):

##### To be colonel

THOMAS G. BOWIE, JR., 0000.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING JAMES W. BOST, AND ENDING GROVER K. YAMANE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1999.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major

MICHAEL J. DELLAMICO, 0000.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

CHARLES S. DUNSTON, 0000.