

where they have lost more than 15 percent of their population. Largely, it shows in the center part of our country, the farm belt, that people have moved out. Our farm belt is being depopulated.

A century ago we had the Homestead Act to persuade people to come out and begin farming. If you moved out there, the Federal Government gave you 160 acres of land. You were a homesteader; you farmed the land. And we populated the farm belt.

Now look at what has happened: The farm belt is being depopulated for a good number of reasons, the most important of which, in my judgment, is we have a farm program that does not work. The farm program says, "You're on your own. When market prices collapse, we're not going to provide decent support prices."

We need to reconnect with decent price supports. We need a Fair Price Plan for Family Farmers, and we need it soon. This Congress has a responsibility, in my judgment, between now and the July 4 recess, to address this urgent situation on America's family farms and to say to family farmers, "You matter, the products you produce make a difference, they have value, and this country stands behind what you represent in our country."

We need to do a number of things. We need to pass a better Farm Bill, as I said, a Fair Price Plan. We need meat labeling that will help our ranchers. Let people know what they are eating and where it came from. We need price reporting. Let's see fair prices and full price reporting on livestock prices. Let's break up some of the monopolies that exist in the slaughterhouses. Eighty-seven percent of America's fat steers go to four slaughterhouses to be slaughtered. What that means is, you pass that monopoly pricing back on family farmers. They are the ones who are already losing money.

Isn't it interesting that every firm in this country who touches what a farmer produces, whether it is a steak or a bushel of wheat or a bushel of corn, is making money. The railroads are making record profits hauling it. The cereal manufacturers are making record profits crisping and puffing it, putting it into a box and selling it as cereal. The folks that slaughter the beef, the pork, the poultry, and the sheep are making record profits. It is the farmer who rises to do the chores, to plant the ground, to harvest the crops, who is going broke because they are told their commodities have no value.

That is a bankrupt approach for this economy. The economy, if it rewards hard work and the production of things people in this world need, will do well. But we decided that the all-star economic producers in America, the American family farmers, don't matter and we passed a farm bill that says, you're on your own; you deal with the mar-

ketplace and we don't care what the marketplace looks like. The farm bill is stacked against you, it favors monopolistic businesses, it presses its heavy boot upon you and you can't do anything about it. That is tough luck because it says we don't need you anymore, we don't need family farmers, all we need are giant agribusinesses. If that is the position that is taken in this country, this country will have taken a giant step backwards.

So I am saying that in the coming 2 or 3 months we must recognize the urgency of the situation on the family farm. Farmer after farmer after farmer in State after State are going broke, through no fault of their own. This young boy, who could not bear to attend the auction sale at his own farm, because it broke his heart not to be able to farm that land that his dad and his granddad and great-granddad farmed, this boy ought to hear from this Congress that we stand ready to help, that we care about preserving families on America's farms, that the decentralization of food production, a network of family farms dotting this country's prairies, strengthens America, that producing food that a hungry world needs is something that is an asset in this country, not a liability.

So I hope in the next 2 to 3 months those who care about family farmers will join those of us who come from the farm belt to pass aggressive, good, strong legislation dealing with concentration, monopolies, price reporting, meat labeling, and a decent price support—all of those issues and more—that will finally say to family farmers, you have a decent opportunity to make a living on America's family farms.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. But before I do, I thank my colleague from Maine for waiting patiently.

Ms. COLLINS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 765 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, April 9, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,661,252,699,346.90 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-one billion, two hundred fifty-two million, six hundred ninety-nine thousand, three hundred forty-six dollars and ninety cents).

One year ago, April 9, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,542,953,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-two billion, nine hundred fifty-three million).

Fifteen years ago, April 9, 1984, the Federal debt stood at \$1,486,873,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-six billion, eight hundred seventy-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 9, 1974, the Federal debt stood at \$472,761,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-two billion, seven hundred sixty-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,188,491,699,346.90 (Five trillion, one hundred eighty-eight billion, four hundred ninety-one million, six hundred ninety-nine thousand, three hundred forty-six dollars and ninety cents) during the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO KYLE MANGINI

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to an extraordinary young man from Blandford, Massachusetts. Kyle Mangini is a 13-year-old Boy Scout who, while on vacation with his family, saved his 16-year-old cousin, Santiago Garcia, from drowning.

Santiago was swimming and suddenly began to drown, sinking to the bottom of the pool. Kyle saw his cousin and immediately realized that he was in great danger. He leaped into the pool and pulled his older, much larger cousin out of the water.

Kyle's quick reaction saved precious seconds and probably saved Santiago's life. Santiago was successfully resuscitated by an emergency medical technician. It was Kyle's lifesaving training as a Boy Scout that prepared him for the emergency. Had it not been for Kyle's brave and timely rescue, his cousin Santiago could have suffered serious brain damage or death.

Kyle Mangini is a credit to the Boy Scouts and a true profile in courage for the State of Massachusetts. It is an honor to pay tribute to him today, and I ask unanimous consent that an article on his action be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Country Journal, Apr. 1, 1999]

QUICK-THINKING BLANDFORD BOY SCOUT SAVES COUSIN'S LIFE
(By Mary Kronholm)

Not every vacation is an adventure, nor is every vacation fraught with life-threatening