

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the concurrent resolution. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) is absent due to surgery.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) would vote "aye."

The result was announced—99 yeas, 0 nays, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 92 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Abraham	Enzi	Lott
Akaka	Feingold	Lugar
Allard	Feinstein	Mack
Ashcroft	Fitzgerald	McCain
Baucus	Frist	McConnell
Bayh	Gorton	Mikulski
Bennett	Graham	Murkowski
Biden	Gramm	Murray
Bingaman	Grams	Nickles
Bond	Grassley	Reed
Boxer	Gregg	Reid
Breaux	Hagel	Robb
Brownback	Harkin	Roberts
Bryan	Hatch	Rockefeller
Bunning	Helms	Roth
Burns	Hollings	Santorum
Byrd	Hutchinson	Sarbanes
Campbell	Hutchison	Schumer
Chafee	Inhofe	Sessions
Cleland	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kennedy	Snowe
Coverdell	Kerrey	Specter
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
Crapo	Kohl	Thomas
Daschle	Kyl	Thompson
DeWine	Landrieu	Thurmond
Dodd	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Domenici	Leahy	Voivovich
Dorgan	Levin	Warner
Durbin	Lieberman	Wellstone
Edwards	Lincoln	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Moynihan

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 26, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,591,807,374,069.84 (Five trillion, five hundred ninety-one billion, eight hundred seven million, three hundred seventy-four thousand, sixty-nine dollars and eighty-four cents).

Five years ago, April 26, 1994, the federal debt stood at \$4,561,451,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred sixty-one billion, four hundred fifty-one million).

Ten years ago, April 26, 1989, the federal debt stood at \$2,756,180,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred fifty-six billion, one hundred eighty million).

Fifteen years ago, April 26, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,485,043,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-five billion, forty-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 26, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$471,530,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-one billion, five hundred thirty million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,120,277,374,069.84 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, two hundred seventy-seven million, three hundred seventy-four thousand, sixty-nine dollars and eighty-four cents) during the past 25 years.

DAIRY POLICY REFORM

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the direction of our nation's dairy policy. When Congress passed the 1996 Farm Bill, we passed the most significant reform of our agricultural system since the Great Depression. In that bill, we ordered USDA to update our outdated milk pricing laws—something that had not happened for 60 years.

In taking these market oriented actions to drag dairy policy into—if not the 21st century—at least the second half of the 20th century, Congress may have spoken more boldly that we were willing to act. Congress has tried to put the brakes on USDA's milk pricing reform efforts from the moment they began. And now, mere days after USDA announced the reformed system, there are those who are seeking to insulate their home states from it by legislating compacts to set the price of milk artificially high in their regions.

These actions cannot stand. Though I understand my colleagues desire to protect the dairy farmers in their regions, I cannot let them do so at the expense of the productive dairy farmers in the upper Midwest—or at the expense of a national milk pricing system that, for the first time in sixty years, is market oriented and fair.

Expanding the anti-competitive Northeast dairy compact would regionalize the dairy industry and institutionalize market distorting, artificially high prices in one area of the country—just as the rest of the country is moving toward a simplified and more equitable system.

Dairy markets are truly national in nature. My region of the country, the Upper Midwest, has learned this lesson all too well. We have seen our competitive dairy industry decline, damaged by the distortion caused by an outmoded milk marketing order system. That system requires that higher

prices be paid to producers the farther they are from Wisconsin. Sixty years ago, when the Upper Midwest was the hub of dairy production and the rest of the country lagged far behind, this regional discrimination had some justification. It encouraged the development of a dairy industry capable of producing a local supply of fluid milk in every region. But today, that goal is largely accomplished, and the continuation of the discriminatory pricing policy serves only to fuel the decline of the dairy industry in the Midwest.

The new system proposed by USDA is not all that we in the Upper Midwest would want. But it is an improvement in the current system, and a move toward a national compromise on this divisive issue. It is a step forward.

The legislation introduced today to continue the Northeast Dairy compact is just the opposite—a step backwards. It would remove a region from the new national dairy pricing system and move toward a Balkanized dairy policy. It hurts consumers in the affected region—consumers who will pay artificially high prices for their milk. And it hurts our hopes of achieving long-overdue unity on dairy pricing reforms that are fair and good for all regions of the country.

For all of these reasons, I oppose the expansion of regional milk pricing cartels like the Northeast Compact, and I ask my colleagues to do the same. Let's enter the next millennium with a dairy policy that is market-oriented and consumer friendly—not one that ties us to the unjustified protectionism and unnecessary inequities of the past.

CELEBRATING MISSOURI HOME EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, as a parent and former teacher, it is a privilege for me to be able to recognize Missouri home schoolers, who will observe Missouri Home Education Week during May 2-8, 1999.

Home schooling has been legal in Missouri since the state's founding in 1821. Since that time, and especially in the last two decades, home schoolers have faced numerous challenges and successes.

Fortunately, legislators are increasingly cognizant of the importance of local decision-making and parental involvement in our children's education. Home Education Week reminds us that parents are the first and best educators of their children. Study after study has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a child's academic achievement.

It is, therefore, appropriate that we celebrate Home Education Week by acknowledging the hard work, dedication, and commitment to academic excellence of the more than 4,300 home school families in my home state. Recently, the Washington Post lauded the