

first detailed in a memo by then-Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in 1989. The department's rule was clarified under Janet Reno in 1994.

In October 1998, Congress passed a law that made federal prosecutors subject to state ethics codes. The law was named for former Rep. Joseph McDade (R-Pa.), who was the subject of an eight-year federal bribery investigation. McDade was eventually acquitted.

The law went into effect last year, over strenuous Justice Department objections. Since then, the department hasn't given up the fight to overturn it. And its efforts have support in the Senate Judiciary Committee, where bills offered by the committee's chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) would establish separate ethical proscriptions for prosecutors.

The Hatch bill would repeal McDade. The Leahy bill would specifically allow prosecutors to contact witnesses regardless of whether they were represented by counsel. Neither bill has made it out of the judiciary committee.

"This law has resulted in significant delays in important criminal prosecutions, chilled the use of federally authorized investigative techniques and posed multiple hurdles for federal prosecutors," Leahy said on the floor of the Senate last month.

Both the American Bar Association and the National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers lobbied Congress hard for the McDade law. Kevin Driscoll, a senior legislative counsel for the ABA, said that his organization is reviewing the Justice Department's complaints about the law's implementation. But, he added, the ABA's support of McDade has not changed.

William Moffitt, a D.C. criminal defense lawyer who is president of the NACDL, says that the Justice Department is "looking for reasons to complain" about McDade.

"They don't have the unfettered ability to intimidate and they don't like that," Moffitt said. "People ought to be able to go to the general counsel (of a corporation) if they are subpoenaed and they ought to be able to be told to get a lawyer."

Few details of the grand jury's investigation of Alaska Airlines have come to light. The airline says that it has received three subpoenas for information related to 12 specific aircraft. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission last month, the airline's parent company, Alaska Air Group Inc., said one subpoena asked for the repair records for the MD-83 craft that crashed in January.

Matt Jacobs, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in San Francisco, declined comment on the status of the investigation, as did the press office for Justice Department in Washington.

The FAA conducted a separate probe of the Alaska Airline's maintenance procedures and proposed a \$44,000 fine, which the airline is contesting. The agency recently threatened to shut down the airline's repair facilities in Oakland and Seattle if it did not provide a sound plan for improving its safety protocols.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 13, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,685,088,778,465.03 (five trillion, six hundred eighty-five billion, eighty-eight million, seven hundred

seventy-eight thousand, four hundred sixty-five dollars and three cents).

One year ago, September 13, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,654,838,000,000 (five trillion, six hundred fifty-four billion, eight hundred thirty-eight million).

Five years ago, September 13, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,967,411,000,000 (four trillion, nine hundred sixty-seven billion, four hundred eleven million).

Ten years ago, September 13, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,234,805,000,000 (three trillion, two hundred thirty-four billion, eight hundred five million).

Fifteen years ago, September 13, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,101,000,000 (one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred one million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,861,987,778,465.03 (three trillion, eight hundred sixty-one billion, nine hundred eighty-seven million, seven hundred seventy-eight thousand, four hundred sixty-five dollars and three cents) during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### POW-MIA DAY

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay my respects and to acknowledge our prisoners of war (POW) and those still missing in action (MIA).

In the year 2000, fewer and fewer Americans understand the meaning of POW/MIA Day, Memorial Day, or Veterans Day. I feel it is important that I and my fellow veterans help our Nation understand that freedom is not free. It is paid for by the service and sacrifices of those who served our country.

The United States of America has been honored and blessed with the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. Our Nation has been kept strong and safe by these great Americans and for this we owe a debt we can never fully repay. Nobody knows this more than the friends and families of those souls who became prisoners of war or are still listed as missing in action. Their anguish and pain is unimaginable. I believe it is important to acknowledge those friends and family members on this day as well.

On September 15, 2000, we acknowledge with upmost respect and gratitude those who have given their freedom to preserve ours. Those who have been prisoners of war have demonstrated steadfastly the beliefs of duty, honor, and country. They never gave up on these beliefs and the United States must never give up on them. We must take care of those who have taken care of us and this includes making every effort to account for those patriots who are missing in action. Our Nation must bring them home to their loved ones.

To those who paid the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives for our country, we must always be thankful. We must never take for granted the freedoms we have due to the men and women who have faithfully served our country in times of war and peace.

May God bless all these American heroes and their families on this and everyday. ●

#### TEENS FAVOR SENSIBLE GUN LAWS

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, a new study conducted by researchers at Hamilton College reveals that students across the country are strongly in favor of sensible gun laws. According to the report, approximately ninety percent of high school students surveyed support proposals such as the registration of handguns and licensing of handgun owners, criminal background checks for prospective gun purchasers, and five-day "cooling off periods." In addition, eighty to ninety percent of the teens surveyed in the poll support laws that would require all guns to be sold with trigger locks, require all gun buyers to pass a safety course, and hold adults criminally responsible for keeping a loaded firearm where it could be reasonably accessed by a child and that child harms himself or others.

Here are some of the other findings from the report: "High school students back handgun regulation at higher levels than respondents in recent adult surveys; High school students believe that the Constitution protects the right of citizens to own guns. But they reject the idea that government regulation of the sale and use of handguns violates this right; Almost half of high school students say it would be easy for a teenager to obtain a handgun in their neighborhood. A third report that they know of someone at their school who has been threatened with a gun or shot at."

The Hamilton College researchers were the first to nationally survey high school students about their feelings toward gun issues. I am not surprised that the results show overwhelming support for the gun safety proposals that many of us in Congress have been trying to enact into law. Students are well-versed on the dangers of guns in their homes and schools. In this survey, more than twenty-five percent of students reported that they or someone close to them has been "shot by a gun."

Mr. President, with just a few weeks remaining until the Senate's target adjournment date, it's long past time to act. Let's listen to our young people and enact the sensible gun laws they want and need to keep American schools safer from gun violence. ●