

new era of globalization. With inventions like the Internet, geographic barriers will no longer stand in the way of children finding families. Today, it is possible for a couple from a small town like New Iberia, Louisiana to be connected with a waiting child in Irkutsk, Russia. There is no such thing as an unwanted child, just unfound families. We share a collective responsibility to find a home for every child in the world and with yesterday's vote, we acknowledged that we are willing to share in that responsibility.

As the largest receiving country, we have the opportunity to use this legislation and the system it creates to construct an international framework designed to protect the children and families involved in the adoption process. It is time for us to take action to eliminate some of the fraud, abuse and greed that can corrupt the adoption process. Joined by their commitment to protecting the rights of the child, Hague countries can now enjoy the comfort of knowing that each and every adoption will be performed in accordance with the established standards. Adoptive parents can rest easier knowing that there is somewhere they can turn with questions and concerns.

As an adoption advocate and adoptive mother, it has been a very exciting week. In addition to passing this treaty, the House just passed the H.R. 2883, the Adopted Orphans Citizenship Act. This bill grants automatic citizenship for children who are adopted. Unlike a child born to a United States citizen, adopted children are not conferred automatic citizenship by virtue of their adoption. Instead, they must go through a long, complex and costly naturalization process. This is not only unnecessary its unfair. Adopted children should have the same rights as birth children and laws which unfairly discriminate between the two need to be changed. I urge my colleagues to act quickly to pass this legislation.

Yes, Mr. President, it has been a very good week for children in need of homes. Yesterday, President Clinton awarded the second installment of the adoption incentive payments to states who had increased their number of adoptions out of foster care. 46,000 children in foster care found homes through adoption last year. That is a 65 percent increase since 1996.

Although I am excited by the progress we have made, I am still driven by the vision of the children in institutions abroad and the knowledge that over 500,000 children in this country are caught in the foster care drift. We have accomplished a lot, but much remains to be done.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 20, 2000, the Federal

debt stood at \$5,660,515,052,511.42, five trillion, six hundred sixty billion, five hundred fifteen million, fifty-two thousand, five hundred eleven dollars and forty-two cents.

One year ago, September 20, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,630,759,000,000, five trillion, six hundred thirty billion, seven hundred fifty-nine million.

Five years ago, September 20, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,967,473,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-seven billion, four hundred seventy-three million.

Ten years ago, September 20, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,214,168,000,000, three trillion, two hundred fourteen billion, one hundred sixty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, September 20, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,837,413,052,511.42, three trillion, eight hundred thirty-seven billion, four hundred thirteen million, fifty-two thousand, five hundred eleven dollars and forty-two cents, during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am honored to serve as one of this year's congressional co-chairs for National Bible Week, sponsored by the National Bible Association. This observance occurs during the week of November 19–26, 2000, the week during which Thanksgiving Day occurs. This is appropriate since many Americans will attend houses of worship during that week to give thanksgiving.

As we gather to give thanks, let us remember that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) When we try to live by bread alone, we nourish the body but starve the mind. Members of Congress are called upon to right wrongs and correct injustice. There is no better way for all of us to satisfy our hunger and thirst for justice than by "eating" the life-giving spiritual food found in the Bible. By "eating" the food of the Bible, I mean not just reading and studying the lessons found there, but to ponder those messages in our hearts and apply them to our own lives. John Quincy Adams, our sixth President, said, "For years I have read the Bible through once a year. I read it every morning, as the very best way to begin the day."

We are all very busy people. Many of us think we do not have time to read the Bible every day. D. L. Moody once answered this common excuse by saying, "My friend, if you are too busy to

read the Bible every day you are busier than Almighty God ever intended any human being should be and you had better let some things go and take time to read the Bible."

The Bible has always been more than a doctrinal source book or a compendium of theological beliefs. People have turned to it time and time again for comfort, encouragement, guidance and direction. I have my Bible on my desk. Woodrow Wilson, our twenty-eighth President, said, "I am sorry for the men who do not read the Bible every day. I wonder why they deprive themselves of the strength and of the pleasure."

Read the Bible. Study the Bible. Ponder the messages contained in the Bible. By doing this you will learn of God's will for your life. Apply those message to your life and you will learn that there is salvation, there is forgiveness of sins and there is the hope of eternal life in the presence of God.●

CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY OF JOAN C. EDWARDS

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the philanthropy of one of West Virginia's most celebrated adopted daughters. Later this month at a formal naming ceremony, the Marshall University School of Medicine in Huntington, West Virginia, will be renamed the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University. It gives me great honor to come to the floor today to be able to share Joan Edwards' remarkable story with the nation.

Born in London, England, Joan's family moved to New Orleans when she was only four years old. At the age of 17, Joan set off to tour the nation singing the "Sugar Blues" with Clyde McCoy and his Kentucky band. As a young girl, Joan's singing career brought her to Chicago, New York, and Pittsburgh, among other cities, where she met her future husband and Huntington, West Virginia native, James "Jim" Edwards. Joan and Jim were married soon after, and lived in Pittsburgh prior to returning to Huntington to work at the Edwards' family business, National Mattress Company. Together, Jim and Joan would build the family's business into a great American success story and were also able to take up their passion of breeding racehorses.

In 1991, after 54 years of marriage, Jim Edwards lost his battle with cancer. Shortly thereafter, Joan Edwards announced that she would present a total of over \$20 million in contributions to the Huntington community from their estate. This included \$1 million to the Marshall University School of Medicine, \$1 million to the Huntington Museum of Art, \$2 million to the Episcopal Church, and \$16 million to the Cabell Huntington Hospital for