

the Federal debt stood at \$5,742,858,530,572.10 (Five trillion, seven hundred forty-two billion, eight hundred fifty-eight million, five hundred thirty thousand, five hundred seventy-two dollars and ten cents).

One year ago, March 3, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,653,396,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-three billion, three hundred ninety-six million).

Five years ago, March 3, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,840,473,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred forty billion, four hundred seventy-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 3, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$496,847,000,000 (Four hundred ninety-six billion, eight hundred forty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,246,011,530,572.10 (Five trillion, two hundred forty-six billion, eleven million, five hundred thirty thousand, five hundred seventy-two dollars and ten cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PESTICIDE EXPOSURE

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Senator BOXER to S. 1134 that would help to protect children from exposure to pesticides used in schools. In the wake of tragic incidents in schools across the nation, many people now think of school safety in terms of enhanced protection from violent crime. My colleague's amendment addresses a less visible aspect of school safety: the need to reduce environmental health hazards from pesticides.

Because of their smaller size, greater intake of food and air relative to body weight, recreational environment, and developing systems, children are at higher risk from pesticide exposure than adults. Numerous studies show that pesticides can pose health risks to children, such as impaired cognitive skills, fatigue, burns, elevated rates of childhood leukemia, soft tissue sarcoma, and brain cancer. Pesticides can be absorbed from exposure through skin contact, inhalation, or ingestion. One recent study showed that after a single broadcast use of chlorpyrifos, a pesticide commonly used in schools, the chemical remained on children's toys and hard surfaces for two weeks, resulting in exposure 21–119 times above the current recommended safe dose.

Last year, I requested that the General Accounting Office review the federal requirements that govern the use of pesticides in schools and the existence of data on the use and incidences of illnesses related to exposure. In January when I released the GAO report, "Use, Effects, and Alternatives to Pes-

ticides in Schools," I noted that its results underscore the lack of both comprehensive information about the amount of pesticides used in our nation's schools, and data on whether pesticide exposure is adversely affecting our children's health.

In January, I called on Administrator Browner to task her agency to take immediate steps to protect children from exposure to pesticides in schools, including providing guidance to applicators and school districts on the relative exposures of different application methods, taking action to appropriately label pesticides that are being used in school environments, and consider conducting a full-scale statistical survey on the use of pesticides in schools to determine whether risks are posed to children by pesticides through cumulative exposure.

Ultimately, these measures all would lead to better information about the risks of pesticide exposure to children. However, we also need to act now to help parents protect their children in the interim. In 1999, Connecticut passed a bill requiring schools to create registries of parents who wish to be informed prior to school use of pesticides. Several other states have taken similar action. However, parents in many states still do not have access to information about when and what pesticides are being used in their children's schools. Senator BOXER's amendment would remedy this problem by ensuring that all parents receive advance notification before toxic pesticides are applied on school or day care center grounds.

In addition to supporting Senator BOXER's notification amendment, I am a cosponsor of Senator TORRICELLI's School Environment Protection Act of 1999, or SEPA, which is currently before the Agriculture Committee. In addition to recognizing the need for parental notification before pesticides are used in schools, SEPA would create a national requirement that when pesticides are used in schools, only the safest methods are followed in order to protect children. I recently visited a school system in Cheshire, Connecticut, that has very successfully implemented these methods, known as Integrated Pest Management, or IPM. The Cheshire school system works closely with local contractors, who carry out monthly visual inspections of the schools, use least toxic pesticides when required, and apply them after hours and after contacting the school nurse. SEPA would require that, like the Cheshire schools, schools nationwide ensure that pesticides are applied safely and only when alternatives have failed.

I am pleased to be able to support Senator BOXER today in her effort to help parents protect their children by reducing their exposure to potentially harmful pesticides. And I hope that

there will be further opportunities to discuss the important issue of decreasing children's exposure to pesticides in schools.●

HONORING MR. JACK BUTCHER OF LOOGOOTEE, INDIANA

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today not only on my own behalf but also on behalf of my senior colleague, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, to honor a fellow Hoosier, Mr. Jack Butcher. Mr. President, as you know, the game of basketball is synonymous with the great state of Indiana. Our affection for the game goes much deeper than the sport itself. We love the game of basketball because of the values that it instills: spirit, teamwork, dedication, and most important, hard work.

We rise today to honor Coach Jack Butcher of Loogootee, Indiana, for his great success in the game of basketball, and for his outstanding service and contributions off the court. Coach Butcher has spent the last 43 years of his life coaching, teaching and influencing the young men and women of Loogootee High School. He has taught countless students lessons about hard work and dedication that one cannot learn from a book.

On December 28, 1999, Mr. Butcher achieved a remarkable milestone in Indiana basketball history, winning his 760th career game, and becoming the all-time winningest coach in Indiana high school basketball history. Mr. President, once again, Senator LUGAR and I would like to commend Coach Jack Butcher for his outstanding contributions both on and off the hardwood. His legacy will be permanently embedded in the record books and in the hearts and minds of the people of Loogootee.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-7856. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Labor, Employment and Training, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 3-95, Change 3", received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7857. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1999 annual report relative to the Department's prison impact assessment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7858. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1998 annual report relative to the National Institute of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7859. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative