noted: “Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality,” he wrote. “Always the simple principle of equality to guide us, as we strive to make history in further advancing the rights of women.”

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate approved S. 295, the Small Business Energy Emergency Relief Act of 2001. This bill will provide needed assistance to small businesses and farmers who have suffered direct and substantial economic injury caused by significant increases in the prices of heating oil, propane, kerosene, or natural gas.

Specifically, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, Senator KIT BOND and Senator JOHN KERRY, for their willingness to include an amendment sponsored by Senator HARKIN (D-IA) which will help farmers offset the surging costs of fuel. Farmers in my state and throughout the country have been negatively impacted as a result of high energy prices on farm income, due not only to the costs for fuel farmers need to run their equipment but also the increases in costs for fertilizer, which is made from natural gas.

Earlier this year, the spot price for natural gas had increased 400 percent from the year before. The Department of Energy is predicting that natural gas rates this winter will be at least double last year’s levels. The most recognizable impact of this price spike has been on heating costs. However, many in the agriculture community are concerned with the impact of these spiraling costs on agricultural producers, since natural gas is the major component of nitrogen.

I am pleased that the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee agreed to include the Farm Energy Relief Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to declare a disaster area in counties where a sharp and significant increase in the price of fuel and fertilizer has caused farmers economic injury and created the need for financial assistance. That determination would allow farmers to be eligible for USDA’s emergency disaster loans for losses arising from energy price spikes. I believe this amendment will provide much-needed relief to many of our producers who are also facing depressed prices for their commodities.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 26, 2001, the Federal debt stood at $5,733,895,076,837.79. Five trillion, seven hundred thirty-three billion, eight hundred ninety-five million, seventy-three thousand, eight hundred thirty-five thousand dollars and seventy-nine cents.

Five years ago, March 26, 1996, the Federal debt stood at $5,066,588,000,000. Five trillion, sixty-six billion, five hundred eighty-eight million.

Ten years ago, March 26, 1991, the Federal debt stood at $3,452,738,000,000. Three trillion, four hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred thirty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, March 26, 1986, the Federal debt stood at $1,982,440,000,000. One trillion, nine hundred eighty-two billion, four hundred forty million.

Twenty-five years ago, March 26, 1976, the Federal debt stood at $690,274,000,000. Six hundred billion, two hundred seventy-four million, which reflects the debt that tax payers will pay to the Chinese in the next 25 years.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, yesterday I offered an amendment, one sponsored by Senator KERRY (D-MA) and Senator HARKIN (D-IA) to extend the tax relief for energy relief for farmers in the Small Business Energy Emergency Relief Act to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to declare a disaster area in counties where a sharp and significant increase in the prices of heating oil, propane, kerosene, or natural gas.

The amendment will help farmers offset the surging costs of fuel. Farmers in my state and throughout the country have been negatively impacted as a result of high energy prices on farm income, due not only to the costs for fuel farmers need to run their equipment but also the increases in costs for fertilizer, which is made from natural gas.

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IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCE CENTER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor and pleasure to inform my fellow Senators that this year marks the 21st anniversary of Community Food Resource Center, a New York City organization that has been a leader in the fight for improved nutrition and economic well-being for all New Yorkers.

CFRC’s first project in 1980 was a school breakfast campaign. Since then, CFRC has been instrumental in shaping and promoting child nutrition programs. Because of CFRC’s efforts, for example, New York City became the first major city to implement universal school meals on a large scale.

I became familiar with CFRC because of my work on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. I have come to admire and respect the amazing job that CFRC does and the dedicated staff, and I feel honored to have had the chance to work with them. Whatever the issue, I can always count on CFRC to focus on the needs of those whose voices are rarely heard in the Capitol.

I would like to highlight just a few of CFRC’s many innovative programs. Its Community Kitchen of West Harlem provides meals to more than 600 people nightly. Its CookShop program encourages schoolchildren to eat more fruits and vegetables. Its senior dinner programs use school cafeterias after hours to provide nutritious meals, social activities and an intergenerational program.