noted: “Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.” This 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.

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 prices 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 of our producers who are also eligible for USDA’s emergency disaster termination would allow farmers to be eligible for financial assistance. That determination would allow farmers to be eligible for financial assistance. That determination would allow farmers to be eligible for financial assistance.

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 that 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 and me. This 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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The THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, March 26, 2001, the Federal debt stood at $5,733,855,076,837.79. Five trillion, seven hundred thirty-three billion, eight hundred sixty-nine million, nine hundred eight thousand, seven hundred sixty-nine 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 $600,274,000,000. Six hundred billion, two hundred seventy-four million, four hundred eighty-six thousand.

As friends and colleagues gather to honor Lieutenant Colonel David’s retirement from the U.S. Air Force, I would like to thank him my heartfelt congratulations. Indeed, the State of Rhode Island is very proud and for their tireless energy and support of the United States Armed Forces. For their outstanding dedication, I wish to commend and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel David’s wife, the former Bernadette Louise Brennan, of Providence, and his two daughters, Ashley Nicole David and Stephanie Michelle David.

In closing, I am pleased to offer my very best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel David for happiness and fulfillment in his new endeavors. His contributions certainly will be remembered for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF COMMUNITY FOOD RESOURCE CENTER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege to introduce a fellow Senator 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 Americans. 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 organization and its 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.