

defense program as an alternative approach virtually insures the acceleration of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction if the nation reduces funding for nonproliferation programs as a result. The President and his advisors are missing the forest for the trees.

Let me add one additional thought. Countries of concern that may be genuinely interested in using weapons of mass destruction against us or our allies are likely to choose methods that are affordable, effective, and unanticipated. An intercontinental ballistic missile could be one way to achieve their goal, but there are other, less expensive and more probable ways. Potential enemies seeking to disrupt and destroy the U.S. and our friends, for example, could achieve their aims through weapons delivered in suitcases, small boats, or delivery vans. If the United States devotes its attention, resources, and expertise to solve the potential intercontinental missile threat without addressing the possibility of low tech applications of weapons of mass destruction, we will have made a very grave error. I urge my colleagues, Mr. President, not to be lulled into a false sense of security regarding plans for a robust missile defense of our nation. As with the case of the dike, deployment of a missile defense system may simply redirect the flow of the threat.

That assumes, that we actually have a missile defense system that works. We are a long, long way from that capability, a fact that I hope that we in the Senate and the American people fully understand. I am pleased that the President did not announce the unilateral abrogation of the ABM Treaty in that regard. It would be foolhardy, in my opinion, to step back from our legal obligations under that Treaty without having the means to defend ourselves—a missile defense system that works. Make no mistake, my colleagues, the unilateral abrogation of the ABM Treaty will have major negative security consequences for the United States and our allies and friends. I urge my colleagues, regardless of how they feel about the ABM Treaty, to join me and other senators to insist that any missile defense system be successfully tested in realistic operational conditions before making any decision to deploy it. The American taxpayer being asked to provide tens of billions of dollars to support that effort, not to mention the men and women in uniform who would operate it, deserve nothing less than a system that works.

I applaud the President's desire for building cooperative relationships that should be "reassuring, rather than threatening . . . premised on openness, mutual confidence and real opportunities for cooperation, including the area of missile defense." There are many important ways to achieve those goals that are currently at risk in the wors-

ening climate of U.S.-Russian relations, particularly if the President chooses to abrogate the ABM Treaty either in word or in deed. Cooperation and reassurance are important byproducts of our nonproliferation programs in Russia that have yielded major dividends in preventing the loss of weapons and materials of mass destruction to those who would be our enemies. Greater emphasis, not less, is needed for such programs. In addition, we have made important confidence-building progress in cooperative approaches regarding early warning of missile attacks through the establishment of a data center and research being conducted on the Russian American Observation Satellite program. I am deeply concerned that such confidence-building programs will be at risk should confrontational relations with Russia continue to increase. If that occurs, the ultimate loser could be ourselves in a less secure world of our own making.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 8, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,647,881,033,420.09, five trillion, six hundred forty-seven billion, eight hundred eighty-one million, thirty-three thousand, four hundred twenty dollars and nine cents.

One year ago, May 8, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,662,693,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-two billion, six hundred ninety-three million.

Five years ago, May 8, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,094,597,000,000, five trillion, ninety-four billion, five hundred ninety-seven million.

Ten years ago, May 8, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,440,039,000,000, three trillion, four hundred forty billion, thirty-nine million.

Fifteen years ago, May 8, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,015,014,000,000, two trillion, fifteen billion, fourteen million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,632,867,033,420.09, three trillion, six hundred thirty-two billion, eight hundred sixty-seven million, thirty-three thousand, four hundred twenty dollars and nine cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL PET WEEK

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I often rise on the floor of the Senate and put on my "veterinarian hat" when talking about food safety, animal science or even small business issues. Today, I rise to recognize this week as National Pet Week and say a brief word about the role of pets in our lives. Events taking place all over the Nation this week are designed to remind us of the value of pets.

Sponsored by several leading veterinary organizations, principally the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), National Pet Week gives those of us in the animal health field an opportunity to celebrate the bond between pets and their owners and address the importance of responsible pet ownership. Pets are important members of over half the households in America. They can be many different things to many different people. A pet can be a hunting companion, someone to play catch with, something warm to curl up on your lap, an additional ranch hand, a guide, a guardian, or a child's best friend. Indeed, companionship is often the most important aspect in the relationship between pet and owner.

In the past 25 years, we have come to accept the human-animal bond as an important force. We understand that the bond exists, but it is hard to define. The AVMA gives us this definition:

The human-animal bond is a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals that is influenced by behaviors that are essential to the health and well-being of both. This includes but is not limited to, emotional, psychological and physical interaction of people, animals and the environment.

The fact is, the addition of a pet to someone's life can do amazing things. Studies have shown that the recovery time and survival rate of people with serious illness can be improved when a pet is part of the equation. The benefits of pets to the blind and disabled are also well known. All over the world, dogs are trained to complete a variety of tasks to assist the disabled in living their lives. Programs to train dogs and place them with disabled owners thrive in every State. The work that they do and the good that results should not go unnoticed. These organizations build new bridges using the human-animal bond formula and enrich lives in so many ways.

Connections between pets and children are well known. Pets can help teach children responsibility, respect and compassion. They can add to a child's growth and development in so many ways. Most of us can certainly remember our first family pet with fond memories. The other part of National Pet Week is pet health. It is certainly true that a healthy pet is a happy pet. Regular veterinarian visits are indeed important and are part of the responsibility as an owner and as a family member. Nutritional care, adequate exercise and proper attention to general health concerns are all necessary in the ownership of a pet and can go a long way in increasing the quality of an animal's life.

So I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Pet Week, and if you have a pet at home, give it an extra hug, a pat on the head or a good scratch in that favorite spot when you get home.●