

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CDC

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this month marks the 50th anniversary of the Nation's premiere disease prevention agency—the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC was originally created to work with State and local health officials to fight malaria, typhus and other communicable diseases. Today, it's expanded mission is to promote health and the quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

Over the years, CDC has implemented numerous prevention programs that have saved lives and improved public health. One of the most dramatic accomplishments has been in combating infectious diseases through its childhood immunization initiatives. During this time, we have witnessed the eradication of the centuries-old scourge of smallpox, and the virtual elimination of polio in the Western Hemisphere.

In recent years, CDC has been at the forefront of the battle against HIV and AIDS. It has initiated numerous studies, surveys, and prevention activities targeting all populations, including women and youth. It has developed and coordinated community planning programs to ensure that prevention efforts include services that are effective in various communities and scientifically sound.

CDC's immunization leadership deserves great credit. Infectious diseases used to kill or disable thousands of children every year. In 1995, vaccine-preventable diseases reached an all-time low, largely because immunization rates had reached an all-time high.

Yet there is still much to be done on immunization. Today over 1 million 2-year-olds lack one or more doses of recommended vaccines. CDC established the childhood immunization initiative to strengthen efforts to ensure that children are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. The Vaccines for Children Program is one of the key components of this initiative, which CDC is implementing in partnership with States and providers nationwide.

CDC also works effectively to prevent birth defects and genetic diseases, and it has had remarkable success in reducing mental retardation, fetal alcohol syndrome, and neural tube defects, including spina bifida and anencephaly.

CDC also investigates many environmental hazards, including radiation, air pollution, and lead poisoning. In the 1970's, CDC was instrumental in encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency to order the removal of virtually all lead from gasoline, on the basis of studies that identified gasoline as a primary source of lead poisoning. The blood lead levels of American children have declined by 70 percent as a result of that action.

In another principle initiative, CDC is working in partnership with States

and public and private organizations to reduce tobacco use and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, by communicating health information to the public, and assisting States in conducting prevention programs to achieve these essential goals.

CDC promotes women's health in numerous ways, including the Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Program, sexually transmitted disease programs, reproductive health research and analysis, and women's health data collection. In addition, CDC has established an Office on Women's Health and has made these issues one of the five priorities of the agency.

CDC also responds to emergencies at home and abroad, including floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters. It sent representatives to help respond to the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Federal building in Oklahoma City. In the last year, it has developed a national strategy for responding to emerging infectious disease threats. By implementing surveillance systems to identify problems and their causes, and developing appropriate responses, CDC's leadership has been indispensable in minimizing the impact of these threats on public health.

I commend the agency for its extraordinary contributions to the Nation and the world. We need its leadership now, more than ever. New public health challenges await us in the future. Diseases and disasters are no longer easily confined to their place of origin, and wars and natural disasters create new opportunities for the spread of infectious diseases. The lessons of the past 50 years have taught us that we must expect the unexpected. Whether the issue is fighting Ebola outbreaks in Africa the reemergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis in the United States, or many other public health threats, we know the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be at the forefront of the worldwide effort to combat them.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on July 1, 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Mr. President, in the United States and around the world, the words "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" are synonymous with public health. What started in 1946 as a small and comparatively insignificant branch of the Public Health Service, established to prevent the spread of malaria, is today one of the most highly regarded agencies in the Federal Government—an agency whose interests include every communicable disease known to man, and whose mission is to protect the public health by providing practical help whenever and wherever it is called upon to do so.

Over the years, the CDC has become more than just a center for disease control. As early as the 1950's, it became a center of epidemiology, providing surveillance of known diseases and ferreting out the cause of new ones wherever they occurred. From influenza, polio, tuberculosis, and smallpox in the United States to, more recently, Ebola fever in Zaire, the CDC has answered SOS calls from all over the world, and become not only a global leader in public health, but the Nation's and the world's response team for a wide range of health emergencies.

In 1992, it expanded its mission even further—from investigating and controlling disease to preventing it. Today, it champions the prevention of disability and premature death from chronic disease by promoting maternal, infant, and adolescent health, examining the interactions between people and their environment, coordinating the planning and implementation of various vaccine programs for children and adults, communicating information for public health action, and establishing a science base for public health practice.

Mr. President, over the years, the CDC has also had a variety of directors who have lead it with distinction, not the least of which is its current and distinguished director, Dr. David Satcher—a fellow Nashvillian whom I am proud to call my colleague and friend. A former president of Meharry Medical College, professor at the Morehouse School of Medicine, faculty member of the King-Drew Medical Center and the UCLA School of Medicine, Dr. Satcher brings not only world-class stature, but unmatched skill, integrity, and experience to his post as CDC.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure to extend to Dr. Satcher, and to all the staff and employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, my heartiest congratulations on the CDC's 50th anniversary, and my best wishes for their continued success in the future.

Mr. President, I thank the chair and yield the floor.

LEGISLATION REGARDING THE TERM "NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS"

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, yesterday I joined with Senators ROTH, MOYNIHAN, BAUCUS, and others on the Finance Committee in introducing a measure that will clarify and emphasize the true meaning of most-favored-nation [MFN] trading status—a misnomer if there ever was one. This is a change I long have advocated, and I hope the Senate will move quickly to approve this legislation.

Since 1989, MFN has gained notoriety as a special favor, a boon, that we grant to other nations. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. MFN denotes a concept used by trading nations that has been around since the 12th century. That concept is simple: