

year, and I will have much more to say on this topic at that time.

Great work remains to be done for hemophiliacs. There is perhaps no greater neglect by the federal government in responding to the AIDS epidemic than the ignoring of our hemophilic population. On November 11, 1998 the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Act was signed into law. The bill, authored by the Senator from Ohio, Senator DEWINE, received overwhelming bipartisan support, and I was proud to be an original co-sponsor of the bill. When it passed, hemophiliacs felt their thirteen year battle to be compensated for the lapse in regulation of our nation's blood supply was over.

In the early 1980s, it became apparent that HIV was being improperly screened, and HIV-tainted blood product was being distributed to patients across the country. At the time, there were 10,000 Americans suffering with hemophilia, an illness which requires regular infusions of blood clotting agents.

According to the Institute of Medicine's report on HIV and the Blood Supply, "meetings of the FDA's Blood Product Advisory Committee in January, February, July and December 1983 offered major opportunities to discuss, consider, and reconsider . . . and review new evidence and to reconsider earlier decisions, [yet] blood safety policies changed very little during 1983." In effect, the report found the FDA was at fault for not responding to clear evidence of transmission dangers. As a result, more than sixty percent of all Americans with hemophilia were infected with HIV through blood products contaminated by the AIDS virus. Currently, more than 5,000 have died and more are dying each day. In my office, I have been visited by courageous hemophiliacs and when they leave, I never know if I will ever see them again. This population has been decimated, Mr. President, and the personal tragedy is unspeakable.

We must fully fund the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The Senate version of the Labor-HHS-Education bill appropriates \$50 million out of the \$750 million needed to fund the Ricky Ray Trust Fund, and that is certainly better than the inadequate level of the other body, but it is a far cry from the level needed by the hemophilic community. Members of this community never anticipated the one-time compensation from the trust fund, intended to assist with staggering medical bills and improve the quality of their lives, would turn out to be a pay-out to their estates.

You need only to speak to some of my constituents, like Therese MacNeill. She will tell you, as a mom, the hardship she has experienced in coping with the tragedy of losing one son to AIDS and caring for another who is HIV-positive. Terri MacNeill will let you know in no uncertain terms why we must fully fund Ricky Ray to help families who for years were storing HIV-infected blood product in

their family refrigerators next to the lettuce and milk, and now are struggling under mountains of medical bills.

Other countries have recognized the plight of hemophiliacs who were infected by poorly screened blood. Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, and Switzerland are just some of the countries which have established compensation programs. Sixty Senators signed on as co-sponsors of the legislation authorizing the establishment of the Ricky Ray Trust Fund. Now is the time to realize our commitment to the hemophilic population on par with other countries as well as our own actions in authorizing the bill. I hope that when the appropriations conference committee meets on this bill, the funding levels for the Ricky Ray act are raised substantially.

Mr. President, let me conclude by saying that I am heartened by the response of my friends, the distinguished Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, and the able Senator from Iowa, Senator HARKIN, in crafting this legislation. They have risen to an incredible challenge in the funding of programs designed for AIDS care, research and treatment, and I remain committed to work with them during this year and next to finish some of the great work that remains to be done, especially in regard to HIV prevention programs and the Ricky Ray Trust Fund.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, October 6, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,654,882,997,504.81 (Five trillion, six hundred fifty-four billion, eight hundred eighty-two million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, five hundred four dollars and eighty-one cents).

One year ago, October 6, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,536,217,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty-six billion, two hundred seventeen million).

Five years ago, October 6, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,690,449,000,000 (Four trillion, six hundred ninety billion, four hundred forty-nine million).

Ten years ago, October 6, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,877,626,000,000 (Two trillion, eight hundred seventy-seven billion, six hundred twenty-six million) which reflects a doubling of the debt—an increase of almost \$3 trillion—\$2,777,256,997,504.81 (Two trillion, seven hundred seventy-seven billion, two hundred fifty-six million, nine hundred ninety-seven thousand, five hundred four dollars and eighty-one cents) during the past 10 years.

MOTIVES OF VOTE

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, a couple of days ago on the Senate floor, one of my colleagues, Senator LEAHY from Vermont, made some remarks regarding the possible

motives of some of us who made a vote on a particular nominee, Ronnie White of Missouri to the Federal court. I want to read from the Senate manual what we all know as rule XVIII. I want to indicate before reading that I do not believe Senator LEAHY violated that rule. That is not the purpose of bringing this up.

The rule says:

No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators—

Plural—

any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming of a Senator.

That rule is very clear, and it is not very often throughout the history of the Senate that rule has been violated.

I want to quote what Senator LEAHY said on October 5 on the Senate floor after the vote on Ronnie White. He said:

Mr. President, I have to say this with my colleagues present. When the full history of Senate treatment of the nomination of Justice Ronnie White is understood, when the switches and politics that drove the Republican side of the aisle are known, the people of Missouri and the people of the United States will have to judge whether the Senate was unfair to this fine man and whether their votes served the interests of justice and the Federal courts.

Then the Senator from Vermont concluded by saying:

I am hoping—and every Senator will have to ask himself or herself this question—the United States has not reverted to a time in its history when there was a color test on nominations.

The reason why I say rule XVIII was not violated in that case, I believe, although the Senator from Vermont may have walked up to the line—he did not cross it—is because he said "I am hoping." I, therefore, will not make any contest at this point on that.

It concerned me deeply that those comments were made. I want to say for the record, and it is interesting because I spoke to at least a dozen colleagues who voted the same way I did, in opposition to this nominee—not that it matters—who did not even know what race Mr. White was. I didn't know. I had no idea, and I had numerous conversations about this nominee over the course of several weeks and months, as his nomination was pending. I never knew what his race was nor would I care because I wouldn't want to look, frankly. What difference does it make? It doesn't make any difference to me.

This went further than the Senate floor, which is quite disturbing. In the Washington Post today is in an article, "Deepening Rift Over Judge Vote, Minorities Confirmed At a Lower Rate." That was the Washington Post story. Very prominently pictured in the article is a picture of Ronnie White, and in addition, Senators ASHCROFT and BOND. There is an implication there that I don't like.