

whom 16.3 percent were drug offenders. By 1997, the federal prison population had grown to almost 91,000 sentenced prisoners, approximately 60 percent of whom were sentenced for drug offenses. The cost of supporting this expanded federal criminal justice system is staggering. We ignore at our peril the findings of RAND's comprehensive 1997 report on mandatory minimum drug sentences: "Mandatory minimums are not justifiable on the basis of cost-effectiveness at reducing cocaine consumption, cocaine expenditures, or drug-related crime."

This is why I have repeatedly expressed my concerns about creating new mandatory minimum penalties, including in the last Congress, when another anti-methamphetamine bill was before the Judiciary Committee.

Second, earlier drafts of this bill would have contravened the Supreme Court's 1999 decision in *Richardson versus U.S. I*, along with some other members of the Committee, believed that it would be inappropriate to take such a step without first holding a hearing and giving thorough consideration to such a change in the law. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator HATCH, was sensitive to this concern and he agreed to remove that provision from this legislation.

Third, an earlier version of the bill contained a provision that would have created a rebuttable presumption that may have violated the Constitution's Due Process Clause. Again, I believed that we needed to seriously consider and debate such a provision before voting on it. And again, the Chairman was sensitive to the concerns of some of us on the Committee and agreed to remove that provision.

The SAMHSA authorization bill also dealt with ecstasy and other so-called "club drugs." Ecstasy is steadily growing in popularity, especially among younger Americans. It is perceived by many young people as being harmless, but medical studies are beginning to show that it can have serious long-term effects on users. This bill asks the Sentencing Commission to look at our current sentencing guidelines for those who manufacture, import, export, or traffic ecstasy, and to provide for increased penalties as it finds appropriate. It also authorizes \$10 million for prevention efforts. These efforts are particularly crucial with new drugs like ecstasy, so that our young people can learn the true consequences of use.

This legislation took a tough approach to drugs without taking the easy way out of mandatory minimums, and without undue Congressional interference with the Sentencing Commission. I hope that any future efforts we must take to address our drug problem will use these provisions as a model.

#### THE NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues support the

National Recording Preservation Act, legislation that maintains and preserves America's most significant recordings during the first century of recorded sound for future generations to enjoy. This legislation is especially important to my state of Louisiana, which has its own rich and distinct musical tradition.

Louisiana is known around the world for having a culture all its own. We are best known for our good music, good food and good times. We especially celebrate our cultural heritage through our music.

The Storyville district in New Orleans is said to be the birthplace of jazz—America's only indigenous musical genre. Louis Armstrong, perhaps the most influential jazz artist of all time, grew up orphaned in New Orleans when jazz music was coming of age.

Acadiana is the home of great cajun and zydeco artists like the late Beau Jocque, the late Clifton Chenier, Michael Doucet and Beausoleil, and Zachary Richard, all of whom communicate to the rest of the world what life is like on the bayou.

In the northern part of our state, Shreveport's Municipal Auditorium was the home of the Louisiana Hayride, where Elvis Presley got his first break after being turned down by the Grand Ole Opry in Tennessee. The Louisiana Hayride shaped the country music scene in the 1940's and 50's by showcasing artists like Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson in its weekly Saturday night radio broadcasts.

Bluesmen like Tabby Thomas and Snooks Eaglin have kept the Delta blues tradition alive and well in Louisiana. The Neville Brothers, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, all the talented members of the Marsalis family, and many others, continue to keep us connected to our culture and help us celebrate it.

According to the Louisiana Music Commission, the overall economic impact of the music industry in Louisiana is about \$2.2 billion as of 1996, up from \$1.4 billion in 1990. So music isn't just important to my state's culture, it is important to its economy. Unfortunately, since many recordings are captured only on perishable materials like tape, we are in danger of losing these priceless artifacts to time and decay.

Recognizing the importance of preserving Louisiana's musical heritage, I have sponsored The National Recording Preservation Act. This legislation, which is modeled after a similar law to preserve America's disappearing film recordings, creates a National Recording Registry within the Library of Congress.

The registry will identify the most historically, aesthetically and culturally significant recordings of the first century of recorded sound and maintains these for future generations to enjoy. The registry will include works as diverse as slave songs, opera, world music and heavy metal. I hope Louisiana's many and varied contribu-

tions to the field of music would be well represented in this national registry.

The National Recording Preservation Act directs the Librarian of Congress to select up to 25 recordings or groups of recordings for the registry each year. Nominations will be taken from the general public, as well as from industry representatives. Recordings will be eligible for selection 10 years after their creation.

To help the Librarian of Congress implement a comprehensive recording preservation program, this legislation establishes a National Recording Preservation Board. The board will work with artists, archivists, educators, historians, copyright owners, recording industry representatives and others to establish the program.

The bill also charters a National Recording Preservation Foundation to raise funds to promote the preservation of recordings and ensure the public's access to the registry.

To maintain the success of the music industry in Louisiana, we must strive to inspire our youth by exposing them to their musical heritage. This legislation helps us take steps to cultivate our traditions and our young artists, and will allow us to continue to attract tourists to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and the Zydeco Festival in Plaisance, Louisiana.

Congress should enact the National Recording Preservation Act so future generations can fully appreciate Louisiana's contributions to the history of recorded music in our country.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, September 22, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,646,596,948,282.03, five trillion, six hundred forty-six billion, five hundred ninety-six million, nine hundred forty-eight thousand, two hundred eighty-two dollars and three cents.

One year ago, September 22, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,636,049,000,000, five trillion, six hundred thirty-six billion, forty-nine million.

Five years ago, September 22, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,949,192,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred forty-nine billion, one hundred ninety-two million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 22, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$550,764,000,000, five hundred fifty billion, seven hundred sixty-four million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,095,832,948,282.03, five trillion, ninety-five billion, eight hundred thirty-two million, nine hundred forty-eight thousand, two hundred eighty-two dollars and three cents, during the past 25 years.