

busy street. I wouldn't even let them ride a bike down there. You are not going to ride a bike down that street. There are no sidewalks.

Again, every highway bill we pass here, every highway bill in which we take dollars out of the road use fund, the gas tax, and put it out to States for building highways and streets, ought to have provisions in it that you have to build sidewalks or you have to build walking paths. I am told in Europe today you cannot build a bridge unless it has a walking path, bike path, adjoining the bridge across the river or thoroughfare or wherever you build it. We ought to be doing that in America. If people want to ride bikes or walk, they can't get across the bridge. So that is in our bill, too.

Insurers should include screening and obesity preventive services in routine clinical practice. It is in our bill, but how many insurers do that? How many provide that you can go in and have screening, counseling, and you can have preventive services under your insurance premium, under your insurance program? I can count the number on two hands, probably—maybe one.

Schools should draw up nutritional standards for competitive foods in schools—competitive foods. I did see one school in Iowa this year in which they had set up their competitive foods. Competitive foods is a fancy name for snacks or vending machines, that kind of stuff. I saw one school in Iowa that took all that stuff out and only had healthful snacks, 100-percent juice drinks, granola bars, different kinds of fruits, things like that. That is the way we ought to be going.

Develop school policies to create schools that are advertising free—get advertising out of our schools. If you walk down the hallway, there is a big Pepsi machine, a big Coke machine. If you walk around the corner, there is your competitive foods, advertising all the candy bars and soft drinks and everything else. Why should we allow advertising in our public schools? I could never figure that one out.

Why don't we advertise here in the Senate? I have an idea, we will put up a sign: A Hardee's steakburger right here. Sell some wall space here. I'll bet it would be priceless. These cameras would pick it up every day. If we don't have advertising in the Capitol, why do we have it in the schools? Why do we bombard our kids every day with advertising for unhealthy habits?

I didn't mean to go through all of these. Those are some of them. But this is what the Institute of Medicine is saying that we ought to do.

I mentioned the bill I introduced, the Help America Act. I am going to reintroduce it next year. We spent many months working on this, on a comprehensive approach. You just can't address the obesity problem, the increase in chronic illnesses in America by just focusing on what we do or what you do in a school. It has to be comprehensive. It has to start from the earliest time of

our lives, in daycare centers, kindergarten, elementary schools. So it has to be home-based so we get more information to our families. It has to be school-based from kindergarten right on through high school and college. It has to be workplace-based so that people on their jobsites can have physical activity and wellness support. It has to be governmentally based so that we do not build housing developments without sidewalks or bridges without walking paths or bike paths; that we build more walking trails in our country.

It has to be Government based and making sure that we have Federal Trade Commission monitoring truth in advertising. It has to be community based. Communities have to pull together with their local YMCAs and others to have wellness programs for the entire community.

One of the great things popping up all over America today is mall-walking programs for the elderly, especially in my part of the country. In the wintertime, it is hard for the elderly to get out and malls have set up walking programs where elderly people will meet. They can walk and they have distance markers. They go around the mall, half a mile, three-quarters, 1 mile. They have a little place where they can stop and have water or coffee or tea or whatever they want. You would be amazed at how many of our elderly are now doing these mall-walking programs. By the way, it is not bad for the mall either. Sometimes they stop and shop, too.

These are the kinds of things we have to do on a community basis, workplace basis, a community basis to help promote a healthier lifestyle in America.

I could go on and on about the Institute of Medicine, what they recommended. The point is, we do have an authoritative blueprint for action. We have a bill that reflects that blueprint. The bill we introduced earlier this year, we will introduce again next year.

So the ball is really now in our court. I intend to reintroduce the HELP America Act in the 109th Congress.

We need a serious, ambitious probusiness, bipartisan effort to build on the steps we took this year. There is no question in my mind that the HELP America Act is a bill whose time has come to tackle some of the biggest health challenges of our day, in particular the obesity epidemic.

We have had report after report and warning after warning on the national level. But we have responded in only an incremental and piecemeal fashion. It is as though we were in the midst of a five-alarm fire but we stubbornly keep the hook and ladder engine in the firehouse relying instead on the garden hose to fight the fire. This is unacceptable.

When we reconvene in January, we need to come together on a bipartisan basis to address the obesity epidemic, to stress wellness and prevention in all aspects of our society. My goal is that

the new 109th Congress will be remembered as the Congress that replaced America's sick care system with a genuine health care system.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

THE EMMETT TILL CASE

Mr. TALENT. Madam President, I rise today to talk briefly about a resolution Senator SCHUMER and I have co-sponsored in the Senate which we introduced yesterday. It is about the Till case.

I want to summarize for you the Emmett Till case. I don't normally read things on the Senate floor, but, in reviewing the notes from our office for the press conference that we had the other day, I really could not find a better statement for the background of this case than the notes. So I am going to read just a couple of paragraphs.

It is a story that I will preface by saying it has to shame every American. It is a hard story to listen to—a story from a time that thankfully was a very different time in this country but a story that has reached across the 50 years since it happened and is calling for action now.

In August 1955, Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American was visiting family in Money, MS, from Chicago and allegedly whistled at Carolyn Bryant, a white woman. On August 28, Roy Bryant, Carolyn's husband, and his half brother, J.W. Milam, kidnapped Emmett from his uncle, Moses Wright's, home. They beat him, dragged him to banks of the Tallahatchie River and shot him in the head. Bryant and Milam then fastened a large metal cotton ginning fan and dumped his body into the river. Three days later, Emmett's body was pulled from the river and returned to his mother, Mamie Till, in Chicago. Mamie Till made a very courageous decision at that point. She decided to leave his casket open for 4 days to show the public what had happened to her son.

Tens of thousands of people paid their respects in person and the press published photos of Emmett's mutilated corpse around the world. In September 1955, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam stood trial for Till's murder in Mississippi. An all white, male jury acquitted both men, after several women and African Americans were barred from serving on the jury; they reached their verdict after only 67 minutes of deliberation. Emmett's uncle Moses Wright, and another resident of the town, Willie Reed, both testified in court. As a result they were forced to flee to Chicago because their lives were in danger following their testimony. Worldwide, there was tremendous outrage at the murder and subsequent acquittal. In November, Wright and Reed returned to Mississippi and testified before a grand jury investigating the pending kidnapping charges against Bryant and Milam. But the grand jury refused to indict those men.

On January 24, 1956, *Look* magazine published an article in which both Bryant and Milam described the murder in detail. They received \$4000 to tell their story. *Look* published a subsequent article, where Milam stated that he did not regret the killing.

Both Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam lived the rest of their lives as free men and died of natural causes; Milam died in 1980 and Bryant in 1990. Mamie Till died in January 2003. Keith A. Beachamp—a documentary film maker from Fort. Greene, Brooklyn—found new evidence about the case, including never-before-heard eyewitness accounts, while making his documentary which will air soon, “The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till.” The witnesses claim that there were several other people involved in the murder plot and that some of these individuals are still alive.

Mamie Till lived in Chicago until she died in January of 2003. She was rather close to Congressman BOBBY RUSH who was a colleague of mine when I served in the House. When Congressman RUSH found out about this documentary, he introduced a resolution calling for the Justice Department to reopen this case and determine whether it was still possible to prosecute some of these other individuals who, according to Mr. Beachamp, were indeed involved in this crime. Since these other individuals were never tried, much less acquitted, it would still be constitutionally possible to prosecute them, especially in the Federal court, because there had never, unfortunately, been Federal actions or Federal indictments brought against any of these individuals who were involved.

Senator SCHUMER was considering filing a companion resolution in the Senate earlier this year. He approached me to see if I wanted to cosponsor it with him. I was very interested in doing that. We both had contacted the Justice Department before we were able to sponsor that resolution. I am pleased to say the Justice Department did reopen the case, that was in May, and the Justice Department has been investigating ever since.

This week Congressman RUSH, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, Senator SCHUMER, and I have sponsored in the House and in the Senate a new resolution calling on the Justice Department to devote whatever resources are necessary to investigate this matter expeditiously and report back to the Congress and to do justice after 50 years.

I am sorry to say—I am ashamed to say—that Mamie Till tried over and over again for almost 50 years to get the Federal Government to do something, which she was unable to do so, particularly in the 1950s when this evidence was fresh, when a Federal charge could have been brought without violating the constitutional rule against double jeopardy, but it was not brought. For that, the Federal Government has to accept responsibility.

We do not know what an expeditious and complete investigation will reveal.

I suppose it is possible either other people were not involved in this or that a case cannot be made against them at this late date. What we do know is that any remaining witnesses, people who might have been coconspirators in this terrible tragic crime, are getting older. If a case is to be made, it must be made soon because witnesses may die, evidence may become even more stale and unusable.

Justice needs to be done for a lot of reasons, in part because, as Congressman RANGEL says, you have to confront these kinds of crimes, these kinds of tragedies, these wrongs if you are ever to get past them, in part because there may be murderers at large who need to be brought to justice, in part because it is only through the courage of Mamie Till and the courage of Moses Wright who, in 1955, followed their convictions and protested publicly about this. It took enormous courage for that mother to keep that casket open so the world could see what happened. It took enormous courage for Moses Wright to walk into that courtroom and testify against these white men, but he did it.

As a result, this whole incident was one of the seminal events that led to the civil rights movement in the 1950s and the 1960s with all the progress we have achieved as a result of that.

It is owing to these individuals and to their courage that we do the right thing after all this time. I certainly intend to continue doing whatever I can to make certain the Justice Department is held accountable for taking action. I know Senator SCHUMER feels strongly the same way. This is a subject I intend to bring up with Mr. Gonzales as his confirmation process moves through the Senate. I certainly hope he is confirmed and I do intend to support that. I think he will make a great Attorney General. But I want to make certain that he is personally aware of this and personally committed to devoting such resources as are necessary, as expeditiously as possible, to see that justice so long delayed is now done in this case.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

FRTZ HOLLINGS

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, when the man who sits right next to me across this aisle over here, the senior Senator from South Carolina, FRITZ HOLLINGS, retires at the end of this Congress, this body will lose one of its most distinctive and eloquent voices. We will lose a master legislator, a per-

son who will go down in history as one of the truly consequential Senators of the second half of the 20th century. Of course, we will lose the presence of a great friend, a colleague whose passion and wit burn just as intensely today as when he first entered this Chamber nearly four decades ago.

As I said, Senator HOLLINGS sits directly across the aisle to my left, at the desk that was once occupied by another extraordinary individual from South Carolina, Senator John C. Calhoun. But Calhoun was a voice of the Old South, a defender of slavery in the great debates prior to the Civil War. FRITZ HOLLINGS, first as Governor, and for the last 38 years as a Senator, has epitomized the New South.

FRITZ HOLLINGS became Governor in 1958, at the tender age of 36. He immediately set about diversifying South Carolina's textile and farming economy. He planted the State thick with technical colleges. He aggressively recruited new industries to the State. But, most importantly, he set in motion the peaceful transformation of racial relations in South Carolina.

Now, remember—I remember it well; I was a senior in high school just going into college at that time—this was a time when other Southern Governors were pledging massive resistance to integration. They literally stood in the schoolhouse door. They incited people to keep African Americans from going into school or sitting at lunch counters or riding on buses.

But FRITZ HOLLINGS charted a different course as Governor. He showed tremendous leadership, real political courage, as he orchestrated the peaceful integration of Clemson University. So FRITZ HOLLINGS epitomizes the New South.

He also epitomizes the Greatest Generation. In World War II, right out of the Citadel, he served as an Army officer in North Africa and later in Italy earning seven campaign ribbons and the Bronze Star.

But I have always believed that what made the Greatest Generation truly great was not just what they did during the war but what they did after the war. As I said, FRITZ HOLLINGS played a transformational role in South Carolina. Then he came to the Senate, and he played an equally dramatic role on the national stage.

In 1968, he conducted a series of “hunger tours” across South Carolina, exposing poverty and Third World living conditions. He went on to coauthor national legislation that created the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, which we now know today as the WIC Program. He championed the Community Health Center Program, bringing medical care to the poor and underprivileged. And now thousands of community health centers dot the landscape in every State of our Union.

FRITZ became a passionate advocate for medical research and the National Institutes of Health, especially cancer