

their fingertips—these little kids that are 10 years old—so when they sew with needles and stick their fingertips with a needle, they can't feel it because they have been scarred by burned gunpowder, so the kids can continue to sew and not bleed. Then that product, that carpet, is sent to the United States, and someone shows up and says: I would like to buy that carpet, wouldn't I? It is made with slave labor, in many cases, with children whose hands have been burned to prevent the bleeding from needles to make that carpet. Is that really what we want? Is that really the construct of trade that we believe represents a free market? I don't think so.

There is much more to say, and I will say it at some future point.

I think today's announcement—just an hour and a half ago now—about the devastating January trade deficit numbers ought to at least justify calling Air Force One back to this town and asking the President to join us, join labor, and join the National Association of Manufacturers in a meeting, a summit to talk about what on Earth we do to repair this trade deficit that is just crushing to the future economic opportunities in this country.

I will have more to say. I hope that this weekend, the White House and the Congress will reflect on what this announcement means for the future of our country and begin to deal with the crisis that does exist. No, not Social Security—it is not a crisis—but the crisis exists in these crippling, devastating trade deficit numbers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

SHOOTING IN ATLANTA

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about something dear and near my heart.

Before I do, I want to mention that we in Arkansas and everyone in the Senate joins with you, Mr. President, in your prayers and our prayers for the very tragic, bad news coming out of Atlanta right now. We want you to know that anything we can do, we want to try to help in every way we can.

COMMEMORATIVE COIN IN HONOR OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, thank you for allowing me a few moments to speak about something I care very deeply about; that is, I am going to introduce a bill that would create a commemorative coin in honor of the 50th anniversary of desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, AR.

The bill I am introducing with my colleague, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN, is a companion measure to the work of our Arkansas colleague, Arkansas Congressman VIC SNYDER.

Once again, Congressman SNYDER has shown himself to be quiet and effective

and really able to get things done over in the House, not just for our States but for our Nation.

Imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and I am here today to introduce identical language to Congressman SNYDER's H.R. 358. I was excited to see that 319 members of the House of Representatives cosponsored Congressman SNYDER's bill. It is my hope that I will have similar success in the Senate.

The bill requires the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock. I believe this will serve as a timeless reminder of an event that provided a landmark change in our school system.

Let me remind my colleagues about the desegregation crisis that took place at Little Rock Central High School and why this event is so important.

In 1952, the Little Rock school board wanted to follow the rule of law and took the *Brown v. Board of Education*, Topeka, KS, case seriously, that momentous decision from 1954. When the U.S. Supreme Court used the phrase "all deliberate speed," the Little Rock school board thought that it could begin to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling beginning in the 1957 school year.

In 1957, nine black teenagers integrated the all white Central High School in Little Rock, AR, testing the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision that ultimately ended legal segregation in schools.

As these nine teenagers attempted to enter the doors of Central High, they were confronted with an angry, rampaging mob. President Eisenhower ordered Federal troops to Little Rock to end the brutal intimidation campaign mounted against the black students and to uphold Brown and Federal law.

The "Little Rock Nine"—Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Thelma Mothershed Wair and Melba Pattillo Beals—changed the course of American history by claiming and exercising the right to receive an equal education.

They were helped in this important endeavor by civil rights pioneer Daisy Bates who raised public awareness of their plight.

Of her experience, Melba Pattillo Beals recalls:

I had to become a warrior. I had to learn not how to dress the best but how to get from that door to the end of the hall without dying.

Another one of those students was Ernest Green, who best explains why the Little Rock Nine sacrificed their innocence for a chance at a better education. He said:

We wanted to widen options for ourselves and later for our children.

Mr. Green was the first black student to graduate from Central High School. He later served as Assistant Secretary

of Housing and Urban Affairs under President Jimmy Carter and as vice president of Lehman Brothers.

Turning opportunity into achievement is what civil rights pioneer Daisy Bates had in mind when she led the Little Rock Nine to break down the barriers that stood between them and an equal education.

Despite threats on her life and of financial ruin, Daisy Bates made significant strides in the courtroom and increased public awareness through the newspaper she and her husband, L.C. Bates, published.

As a former student of Central High—and by the way, I note that we have another student of Little Rock Central High in our presence today as one of our pages—I can tell you the impact of the Little Rock Nine and Daisy Bates is still felt in my heart and in the halls of Central High.

The acts of courage, self-sacrifice, and grit by the Little Rock Nine should be shared with our current generation and the generations to follow.

It took nine young high school students to prove to our Nation that "all men are created equal" and that the rule of law is paramount in the democracy of the United States.

Today, children all over America have the right to learn because of the courage and sacrifice of the Little Rock Nine. A commemorative coin will bring national and international attention to the lasting legacy of this important event. With this legislation, 500,000 \$1 dollar coins will be minted by the Treasury.

These coins will be minted with symbols emblematic of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School and its contribution to civil rights in America; bear the year "2007"; and include the inscribed words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum", which means, out of many, one. Little Rock Central High School helped us to become one nation.

To cover the cost of the coins, the Secretary of Treasury shall sell the coins at face value with a surcharge to cover the cost of production and design.

The courage of the "Little Rock Nine" (who stood in the face of violence, was one of the defining moments of the Civil Rights movement and changed American history by providing a foundation upon which to build greater equality.

I hope that the Senate will join me in passing this measure to commemorate the Little Rock Nine and the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and allow the measure to move forward in an effort to ensure that these extraordinary achievements are recorded and shared for future generations.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise, along with my friend, colleague and fellow Arkansan, Senator MARK