October 7, 1999  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE 24531

Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill will include language which deprives the Secretary of Health and Human Services from using her discretion based on science and empirical academic study to determine if needle exchange programs reduce the transmission of HIV without encouraging illegal drug abuse. This is bad public policy, and it is bad health policy. It is my hope that the conference on this bill will restore the Secretary’s discretion.

Great work remains to be done in combating AIDS abroad. We are a failure in our policy toward Africa. Our international efforts need to be bolstered to assist developing countries crippled by the effects of HIV disease. My distinguished colleague and friend from Vermont, Senator LEAHY, has been stalwart in raising the funding levels to fight AIDS abroad in the Foreign Operations appropriations bill and the Congress needs to follow his guidance by continuing to increase these levels. In addition, tomorrow I will introduce the Lifesaving Vaccine Technology Act of 1999 to spur research of vaccines to combat diseases which kill more than one million people every 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 hemophilia population. On November 11, 1996 the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Act was signed into law. The bill, authored by the Senator from Ohio, Senator D EWINE, received overwhelming bipartisan support, and I was proud to be an original co-sponsor of the bill. When it passed, hemophiliacs felt their thirtieth birthday was a celebration 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 re-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 who have left, and I never know if I will ever see them again. This population has been decried, 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 hemophiliac community. Members of this community never anticipated the one-time compensation from the trust fund, intended to assist with staggering medical bills to 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. Shown well as 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 hemophilia compensation 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, 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, four hundred ninety-seven thousand million).

Five years ago, October 6, 1994, the Federal debt stood at $4,690,449,000,000 (Four trillion, four hundred ninety seven 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 $2 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 word or 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, 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
African American Republican in the
ervice to J.C. Watts, the most prominent
that we treat minorities fairly, and that we dis-
tront that they treat minority and women judicial
 Senate is adding credence to the perceptions
ocation. The Republican-controlled
ment Bill Clinton were Senator Bill
s about all of us who voted against Mr.
van for Civil Rights. He happens to be African American.
Lucas's nomination never got to the Senate floor. The vote in Judiciary was 7-7. The Senator from Vermont voted no. Again, I would never use the issue
es to confirm Clarence Thomas. I would never use the issue of race to say that was the reason for his vote; I would not even imply it.
So I think it is important that we move beyond this, stop this divisiveness, and give people the benefit of the doubt, and particularly Senator Hatch who so many times has brought nomi-
several weeks and months, as his nomination was pend-
ernoniates whom you and I—I would say to the
in Missouri, I do not impugn his motives, the personal views of that individual. He is a political slant to his opinions in favor of criminal defendants and against criminal pro-
antennese whom you and I—I would say to the
I did not hear the President mention any of us who voted for Clar-
letters on terms of the nominations that have come through this Senate have been con-
nominations fairly and unequally.
that we treat minorities and women judicial nominees unfairly and unequally.
that we are racists, that we do not
ings unfairly and unequally.
in Missouri for the Senate, who said:
Judge White is a highly qualified lawyer and judge and the [death penalty] figures were motivated by Senator Ashcroft to un-
certain what his race was nor
many days until the Panama Canal would be turned over to the Chi-
Chinese Communists. That was October 4.
Chairman Watts of the House Republican Conference said. This is J.C. Watts talking:
“it is fascinating to me that racism often
not that it matters—who did not even know
what race Mr. White was. I didn’t know.
many conversations about this nominee
oma that does not
of the Panama Canal
October 7, 1999
THE PANAMA CANAL
Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. A few
days ago, on October 4, I indicated that
there were 88 days until the Panama
Canal would be turned over to the Chi-
inese—to the Panamanians and ultima-
tely into the hands of the Chinese Communists. That was October 4.
Today is the 7th, so we have 87, 86,
85—we are down to 85 days before the
canal is closed, will be turned over to
Chinese. I have a chart here on
which I will put some stickers to cross
those days off. The days go fast. I point
out that we are going to see this canal in
the hands of a nation that does not