

bills to address. But I believe this bill must be a top priority. It is unacceptable that women who are diagnosed with cancer often go without life-saving treatment simply because they cannot afford it. Congress has the responsibility to act quickly on this issue.

In the spirit of the CDC Early Detection program, which is approaching its 10th anniversary, I urge the leadership to bring S. 662 to the floor as soon as possible, and advance America's fight against breast and cervical cancer.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, July 21, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,667,708,257,883.47 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-seven billion, seven hundred eight million, two hundred fifty-seven thousand, eight hundred eighty-three dollars and forty-seven cents).

One year ago, July 21, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,630,350,000,000 (Five trillion, six hundred thirty billion, three hundred fifty million).

Five years ago, July 21, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,936,736,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred thirty-six billion, seven hundred thirty-six million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 21, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$533,588,000,000 (Five hundred thirty-three billion, five hundred eighty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,134,120,257,883.47 (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-four billion, one hundred twenty million, two hundred fifty-seven thousand, eight hundred eighty-three dollars and forty-seven cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF EXPO 2000, A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MARKETPLACE

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the Houston Minority Business Council and the other groups and individuals who are now preparing for "EXPO 2000, a Business Opportunity Marketplace," to be held on August 31, 2000, in the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. This annual event is Texas' largest minority business trade fair and offers a meeting ground for corporations seeking to identify experienced minority entrepreneurs.

Over the last decade, the number of minority owned businesses grew in the U.S. by an impressive 168 percent. These businesses generate half a trillion dollars in revenue and employ nearly four million workers. This success has been in large measure due to the efforts of groups like the Houston

Minority Business Council and the dedicated individuals throughout Texas and this nation who seek to expand economic opportunities for all Americans.

The EXPO has been an outstanding example of such efforts, and has opened the doors of the marketplace by successfully pairing minority business owners with representatives from more than 220 local and national companies. The event provides these minority entrepreneurs with direct marketing opportunities with corporations, government agencies and educational and financial institutions that need capable contractors to support their missions. The EXPO has produced real results, with two thirds of participants reporting having obtained contracts for as much as two million dollars within a year of the event.

I have worked hard in the U.S. Senate to build upon efforts like this to expand Federal contracting opportunities to small and disadvantaged business entrepreneurs. I have helped lead the efforts to defend programs such as the 8 (a) Federal business development program, worked to curb the "bundling" of Federal contracts that hurt small businesses, and I have served as a champion of Small Business Development Centers, which assist small businesses in getting the capital and assistance needed to get started and expand.

I again commend the organizers, supporters, and participants of EXPO 2000. These fine men and women represent the best of Texas' entrepreneurial, hard-working and neighborly spirit. I wish them all much future success, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure that all Americans share in the fruits of our economic prosperity.●

A TRIBUTE TO BERNIE WHITEBEAR

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is with great admiration that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Bernie Whitebear, of Seattle, Washington, who passed away at the age of 62 on Sunday, July 16, 2000.

A long-standing advocate and leader in the fight for tribal self-determination, Bernie Whitebear was an outstanding role-model for tribal and non-tribal people alike. Known for his vision, humor and commitment, he lives on in the minds and hearts of everyone who knew him.

Bernie Whitebear was born on September 27, 1937 on the Colville Indian Reservation in Eastern Washington. Born into a large family, Bernie grew up confronting many of the barriers facing reservation children, including poverty and discrimination.

As an adult, he moved to Seattle, attended the University of Washington and worked as an engineer for Boeing. He later joined the Army as a para-

trooper in the 101st Airborne Division and served as a Green Beret.

During the activism of the late 1960's, Bernie Whitebear emerged as one of the central tribal leaders in the Pacific Northwest and was a tireless advocate for American Indian recognition and empowerment. We often remember his social action, seen through his leadership in the "invasion" of Fort Lawton in Seattle in 1970. Bernie and others occupied the Fort Lawton property after plans were announced to list the Fort as surplus property for the city to designate as a park. He felt local tribes had a historic right to the land, which could be better used as a central service base for Seattle's largely unserved urban Indian population.

The 3-month occupation, civil arrests and resulting media attention prompted Congress to order the city of Seattle to negotiate a settlement, which included a 99-year lease on a 20-acre parcel for Whitebear's group. The settlement provided space for construction of the Daybreak Star Art Center, which currently stands in Discovery Park.

I want to share with the Senate one of my favorite memories of Bernie Whitebear. Bernie had invited me to attend the Mini-Pow Wow in my state on February 7, 1998. He asked me to stop by to talk about the People's Lodge, to see the artwork, and to have a quick look at some of the traditional dances. I told Bernie I would stop by, but that I only had a short while because I had a lot of events I needed to attend that day.

I remember when I arrived at the University of Washington Bernie welcomed me with his big bright smile and an outstretched hand. We watched some of the traditional dances, and then I realized that if I didn't leave soon I would be late for my next event. It was one of those days when I was trying to meet as many people as possible. Well Bernie didn't let me just meet the people at the Mini-Pow Wow, he made me stay and understand them. He started by introducing me to everyone in the room.

Then Bernie leaned over to me and explained that it was customary for a visiting United States Senator to move to the front of the dancing group. You know, it was one of the many Native American traditions Bernie told me about that always sounded a little invented to me. Like another old tradition he told me about: That anytime a U.S. Senator stepped foot in Discovery Park he or she had to pay a visit to the Daybreak Star Center. Well there was Bernie asking me to move to the front, and who could say no to Bernie?

He had his arm around me. He was leading me to the front. Everyone was watching, and I went along. The next thing I knew, I was leading about 300 people in a tribal dance. Even though I was not born to be a dancer and I certainly didn't know that particular