

The FTC report found that 80 percent of movies rated R" for violence were targeted to children under 17. A movie industry document even acknowledged that [o]ur goal was to find the elusive teen target audience and make sure everyone between the ages of 12-18 was exposed to the film." Another document spoke of using youth groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H Clubs in the market testing of R-rated" films.

Teenagers apparently have also been the target of the music industry's efforts to sell CDs with explicit content labels. According to the FTC report, all music recordings used in the study were in some way targeted toward children under 17. This practice included the placing advertising in media specifically aimed at a youth audience. Finally, the FTC report noted that 70 percent of all video games with "Mature" ratings for violence were targeted toward youth.

It is important to note that the FTC report also conducted studies on children's ability to access these products. The FTC found that most retailers make little effort to restrict children's access to products with violent content. Almost half of the movie theaters used in the study admitted children ages 13 to 16 to R-rated" films even when not accompanied by an adult. The FTC study also showed that unaccompanied children were able to buy explicit recordings and Mature-rated" video games 85 percent of the time.

The FTC's findings are staggering, and I am eager to hear the entertainment industry's response to the report. Clearly, the entertainment industry and its retail partners must refocus their efforts and work with the FTC and concerned members of Congress like myself to keep violent material out of the hands of children.

It is my hope that the entertainment industry will take this opportunity to help restore the faith of the American public in its voluntary ratings system. Parents in South Dakota and around the country must also have resources they can trust to help them prevent youth violence in their own communities.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues and members of the industry on ways to keep violent material out of the hands of children without infringing on fundamental First Amendment rights.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 12, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,684,118,446,519.63, five trillion, six hundred eighty-four billion, one hundred eighteen million, four hundred forty-six thousand, five hundred nineteen dollars and sixty-three cents.

Five years ago, September 12, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,964,466,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-four billion, four hundred sixty-six million.

Ten years ago, September 12, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,232,127,000,000, three trillion, two hundred thirty-two billion, one hundred twenty-seven million.

Fifteen years ago, September 12, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,101,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred one million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 12, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$549,340,000,000, five hundred forty-nine billion, three hundred forty million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,134,778,446,519.63, five trillion, one hundred thirty-four billion, seven hundred seventy-eight million, four hundred forty-six thousand, five hundred nineteen dollars and sixty-three cents, during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. EMILY E. ROME

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I hereby recognize Ms. Emily E. Rome of the Paterson School District as the 2000-2001 Passaic County Teacher of the Year. For the past 50 years, Ms. Rome has served as a physical education teacher and has received numerous awards and accolades during her tenure. Her accomplishments have been recognized by the U.S. Congress and the Governor of New Jersey and celebrated through awards from the New Jersey Education Association and the National Education Association.

However, the effectiveness of her service reaches far beyond the view of the public eye. In the classroom, Ms. Rome has dedicated herself to creating a supportive and productive environment for the youth of Passaic County. She has helped to shape the mind and spirit of these individuals during a crucial stage of development in their lives. Further, as a member of the community, Ms. Rome has demonstrated a high level of service and commitment that we should all strive to achieve.

Ms. Rome's accomplishments and accolades reflect only a small portion of the many contributions she has made to those she has served. Her efforts have spanned from the children of Passaic County to a variety of young individuals who aspire to follow in her footsteps as an educator and community leader. She is an example of the professionalism that we look for in our educators, and the type of citizen that we hope to find in our communities. Her commitment to the community, and her dedication to her students is to be commended.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT CRESANTI

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my employees, Robert Cresanti, Robert has worked as my staff director on the Special Committee which addressed the Y2K problem which I chaired and has also served as a subcommittee staff director and counsel on the Banking Committee where I sit. Robert is a wonderful example of an outstanding man who has given much of his time and talents to the U.S. Senate and the American people. He has developed excellent skills in the legislative process and in the ways of Washington. I know he will be successful in his future endeavors. As he leaves the Senate to go into the private sector I express my great appreciation to him for his 8 years of loyal service and wish him the very best as he starts his new professional opportunity.●

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN HILL III OF FLORIDA

• Mr. GRAHAM. Today I offer a tribute to a great Floridian who has advanced the cause of quality judicial appointments to an independent Federal judiciary: Mr. Benjamin Hill III of Tampa.

For four years, Mr. Hill has served as chairman of Florida's non-partisan Federal Judicial Nominating Commission, which screens candidates for federal judgeships. Mr. Hill has done an outstanding job of leading the Commission and saluting the principle that those appointed to the federal judiciary should be among the best in the legal profession.

This year the United States Senate has confirmed six new federal judges for Florida; five in the Middle District and one in the Southern District. The investiture ceremony for two of those new judges, the Honorable James Moody and the Honorable James David Whittemore, will be held September 18, 2000, in Tampa, Florida, followed by other investitures elsewhere in our state. The federal judiciary, the legal profession and the public welcome these new federal judges.

As we applaud new jurists, we also recognize the tireless work of Mr. Hill in managing a judicial-selection process focused on meritorious appointments. A leader in his community, his church and his profession, Mr. Hill is a past president of the Florida Bar and a current member of the Board of Governors Executive Committee of the American Bar Association.

The United States Constitution specifies that one of the functions of the United States Senate is to offer "advice and consent" on the executive branch's nominations, which includes the nomination of federal judges for our independent judiciary.

Perhaps the most visible aspect of the advise-and-consent clause is the Senate's power to confirm nominations