

I must confess, Mr. President, when I first became familiar with this issue as Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I was very concerned that a consensus might not be achievable.

We had conflicts between the desire to implement a Russian enriched uranium purchase agreement and the legitimate interests of enrichment plant workers and uranium producers. We had conflicts between plant workers and plant management. We had conflicts between USEC and other entities that desired to get into the enrichment business. We had tough issues to resolve that impacted every player in the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium producers, converters, enrichers, fuel fabricators, and utilities.

To complicate the picture, we had to address all these thorny issues in a manner that would maximize USEC's value without inhibiting competition in the enrichment market.

After hearings, a markup, and many months of work and negotiation between Senators, Senate staff, Members of the House, House staff, representatives of the Administration, uranium producers, labor unions, industry and many others, a bipartisan, bicameral bill slowly began to emerge. This was not always an easy negotiation, but those involved stuck with it to reach the best consensus achievable.

Like any successful negotiation, all sides had to give a little. Nobody was completely happy. But we got it done and achieved a broad consensus.

The USEC privatization bill was included in the reconciliation package which was vetoed for reasons having nothing to do with the USEC language. The USEC privatization bill was then presented as a stand-alone bill that was placed on the Senate calendar, and the language emerging from our consensus was finally included in the Omnibus Appropriations bill that was recently signed by the President and enacted into law.

I am pleased that the adoption of this measure will result in the long term viability of a secure, economical, domestic source of uranium production and enrichment while providing revenues exceeding a billion dollars for the U.S. Treasury.

Mr. President, I want to publicly thank some of my colleagues who were so instrumental in making this bill a reality. Senators DOMENICI, FORD, JOHNSTON, THOMAS, and CAMPBELL played key roles in the Committee's deliberations. Although they weren't on our Committee, Senators MCCONNELL and DEWINE worked behind the scenes, each bringing issues to my attention during difficult periods of the negotiation.

In particular, I want to mention and praise the efforts of Senator DOMENICI and Alex Flint of his staff. Senator DOMENICI and Alex were working this measure on a daily basis throughout its formulation, introduction, hearings,

markup, the budget reconciliation process, and the omnibus appropriations process. Senators FORD and JOHNSTON, ably served by Sam Fowler, the Minority Chief Counsel of the Energy Committee, were instrumental and absolutely indispensable in the eventual success of the measure.

At the Department of Energy, the personal and intense interest of Deputy Secretary Charles Curtis was a key to success. With Charlie's help we were able to break through some of the customary obstacles that arise in a protracted negotiation such as this.

The consideration of this bill also brought to light a former Energy Committee staff member, Mr. Russ Brown, who now works for USEC in a Governmental Affairs capacity. Russ worked for me on the old Water and Power Subcommittee when I was first a subcommittee chairman. Russ got to walk the halls of the Senate once again during the consideration of this bill. If there is a bad outcome arising from this bill's passage, it's the fact that Russ can't hand around his beloved Senate anymore and must return to work at USEC's offices in Bethesda.

Let me simply say that there are others I haven't specifically mentioned who deserve our thanks and recognition as well. They know who they are, and we are all indebted to their professionalism and perseverance. ●

THE MOST REVEREND DAVID B. THOMPSON; A TRIBUTE

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a revered and respected community figure, a gifted teacher and a good friend. This week, Bishop David B. Thompson celebrates three anniversaries at once: that of his birth, May 29, 1923; his priestly ordination May 27, 1950, and his episcopal ordination May 24, 1989. It is a truly significant week of the year for him, the Diocese of Charleston, his family and friends.

Bishop Thompson was born in Philadelphia to David B. and Catharine A. Thompson. He has two siblings: a sister, Elizabeth Jane Hutton and a twin brother, also a priest, The Reverend Monsignor Edward J. Thompson, who is retired. The Bishop's studies for the priesthood began immediately after he graduated from High School. He attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook, PA, where he earned a bachelor of arts and a master of arts degree in history.

He earned a licentiate in canon law (J.C.L.) from the Catholic University of America while serving as an assistant pastor at Our Lady of Pompeii over the summers of 1951 and 1952. In September 1952 he was appointed a professor at St. Thomas Moore High School in Philadelphia. He continued to take courses through Villanova University. The Bishop also served the school as a guidance counselor.

In 1957, Monsignor Thompson was named the founding principal of Notre

Dame High School in Easton, PA, where he served for 4 years. During that time, he made a name for himself, or rather, the students made a name for him. The students had expressed to Bishop Thompson the need for a similar social outlet to American Bandstand. He responded by establishing a Notre Dame Bandstand and hiring Gene Kaye, a disc jockey from Allentown. Mr. Kaye helped to make it a nationally known event; he also gave Bishop Thompson the name "Father Bandstand." Among the people to appear on stage at Notre Dame were Frankie Avalon, Chubby Checker, Connie Frances, Fabian, Annette Funicello, and Brenda Lee. When Paul Anka performed in the summer of 1960, more than 2,300 teenagers were there to hear him.

In January 1961, the Diocese of Allentown was created by Pope John XXIII. Monsignor Thompson was named the first chancellor of the new diocese and served as the moderator of an \$11 million educational building campaign. For 22 years, he would serve in the capacity of Vicar General. In 1967 he was named the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, the oldest Catholic Church in Allentown. Over the years, he was given tremendous and varied responsibilities within the diocese, and he brought to each new challenge the wisdom and energy which has become his trademark. He served as the pastor of the Allentown Cathedral Church of St. Catherine of Siena from 1975 to 1989.

In 1989, Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Thompson the 11th Bishop of Charleston. He succeeded Bishop Ernest L. Unterkoefer upon his retirement in February 1990. Of the numerous accomplishments in Bishop Thompson's life, from his educational achievements to his high honors within the church, it is the effect he has on individuals as he carries out his life's work that truly sets him apart. During the years of his incumbency, Bishop Thompson has traveled thousands of miles to visit every parish and mission in his diocese, which encompasses the entire State of South Carolina. He has reinvigorated the Diocese of Charleston, vocations have increased 400 percent, and in 1994 alone there were over 30 building projects in the 114 parishes and missions. He has set parochial education standards that have improved the quality of diocesan schools throughout South Carolina, and he has encouraged youth participation in the life of the church. He has given so much of himself to the State, being active in local events, and a constant presence.

On every level, from local to national, Bishop Thompson has been a tireless champion of Christian values and humanism. He has been awarded the Tree of Life Award, the Jewish National Fund's highest honor, for his efforts on behalf of interfaith harmony. Under his leadership, the diocese sponsored the Palmetto Project Community

Relations Forum, an effort to erase racism through friendship. And he continues to inspire every individual and group with whom he comes into contact.

I am truly honored to know this man, and, along with my wife Peatsy, I wish him a joyous anniversary celebration.●

NEUROFIBROMATOSIS, INC., THE NF SUPPORT GROUP OF WEST MICHIGAN, AND ROSEMARY AND GILLIAN ANDERSON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on Friday, May 3, 1996, I had the honor and pleasure of hosting a luncheon here in the U.S. Senate on behalf of furthering awareness and understanding of the neurological disorder neurofibromatosis. The luncheon, held in the Russell Caucus Room, was sponsored by Neurofibromatosis, Inc., a national nonprofit organization with chapters around the country which provides support for individuals and families affected by NF. NF, Inc., also promotes greater education and awareness of NF and helps spur further research into its causes and treatment.

Neurofibromatosis is one of the most common genetic conditions of the nervous system. NF can strike any family, and there is no known cure. NF is a progressive disorder that causes tumors to form on nerves throughout the body. It manifests itself in two genetically distinct forms, the most common of which strikes approximately 1 in 4,000 individuals. Although unpredictable, NF can cause hearing loss, vision impairment, seizures, bone deformities, learning disabilities, and cancer. Congress has consistently supported aggressive research into NF and has encouraged the National Institutes of Health to coordinate their activities in order to intensify research into NF's link to learning disabilities and its connection to other serious tumor diseases, including cancer.

In addition to providing Members and their staff with the opportunity to learn more about NF, the luncheon gave the organization's membership an opportunity to present awards to several individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cause of finding a cure for and effective treatment of NF.

Our colleague Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM was recognized for her work on behalf of NF and other genetic conditions as a member—and now as chairman—of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Human Genome Research, also received an award for his work in this area. Much of what is now known about the link between NF and human genetics is the result of research conducted by Dr. Collins while he was a professor and researcher at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor from 1984 until his selection in 1993 to head the human genome project. And Dr. Martha Bridge

Denckla, director of the developmental cognitive neurology division of the Kennedy-Krieger Institute in Baltimore, was named the 1996 NF, Inc., scholar, recognition for the significant contribution she has made to the understanding of NF and learning disabilities.

However, the highlight of this event for me was meeting and talking to two other individuals who played prominent roles in the luncheon's program and who happen to hail from my State of Michigan.

The first person, Mrs. Rosemary Anderson, has a long record of activism on behalf of individuals with NF and their families. Rosemary Anderson currently resides in Grand Rapids and is co-president of the NF Support Group of West Michigan. Rosemary joined a fledgling NF support group back in the mid-1980's and, shortly thereafter, took over running it along with another colleague, Bette Contreras. Since then she and Bette have turned this group into an instrument of information, education, and emotional support that has become indispensable to the people of west Michigan with NF and their families. Through Rosemary's work at the NF Support Group of West Michigan, she came to know and work with Dr. Francis Collins during his tenure at the University of Michigan. They have continued to stay in touch and remain good friends, and therefore, it was quite fitting that Rosemary was chosen to formally introduce Dr. Collins at the luncheon.

The other person is Rosemary's daughter, Ms. Gillian Anderson. Gillian, who grew up in Grand Rapids and now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, is the star of the hit Fox Network television series, "The X Files." Gillian was kind enough to appear at the luncheon which introduced her to Capitol Hill and drew public attention to the NF cause. While in Washington, DC, she took other steps to promote greater awareness of NF and to seek increased funding for NF research. She and Rosemary appeared on the local "Fox Morning News" show, and Gillian taped a public service announcement on NF which is to be aired nationally over the Fox Network.

Mr. President, it was truly wonderful to see how much that crowd admired Gillian Anderson. I think every person who attended that luncheon stayed afterward to have their picture taken with her and have her sign an autograph for them—either on the NF, Inc. newsletter or on magazine covers which contained her picture.

However, I was moved even more by the poignant and compelling remarks that Gillian made as the luncheon ended. Her touching comments, revealing her own experience and perspective regarding NF, captivated the audience. I would like to share her comments with my colleagues because I think, in many ways, they transcended the issue, neurofibromatosis, that brought so many people to that event in the

first place. Her remarks really conveyed the despair and the hope that surround every disease or condition for which there is no cure or effective treatment. As intimate and personal as her observations were, I believe they warrant expression to a wider audience than was able to hear and learn from them that afternoon.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask that a transcript of Ms. Gillian Anderson's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The transcript follows:

REMARKS OF GILLIAN ANDERSON AT NEUROFIBROMATOSIS, INC. LUNCHEON, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1996

Thank you. I am just listening to the very small list of my accomplishments. They seem so insignificant in the presence of such gurus as Dr. Collins and Senator KASSEBAUM. I'm very honored to be here. But I will say, this is much scarier than any "X-File" I've ever encountered.

I'm going to read what I've written. I may be able to look you in the eye, but at this point it's written down and hopefully I can make some sense.

My first lesson with neurofibromatosis came when I was 16, after we learned that my three and a half year old brother Aaron had it. My mother took me to the first meeting of what was to become the Neurofibromatosis Support Group of West Michigan.

I remember the social worker there talking to the 40 or so people who had shown up. There were many who were too intimidated to speak, and there were many who were so excited about the prospect of communicating with people who for the first time understood what they had been going through, and also communicating the fears that they had experienced in their lives, that they couldn't stop talking.

I remember in particular one young mother who had just lost her 6-year-old daughter to an NF related brain tumor, and I remember a 60 year old woman who was trying somewhat heroically not to hide the many disfiguring tumors on her face. It was a very broad spectrum.

My Mother tells me that some people never actually came back to that support group. I think for the many who remained over the past 11 and some years, that the support group has been there, they have shared in the comfort of unbiased friends and fellow sufferers, and in the slow but gradual understanding of NF and its unpredictable complications.

I have watched my brother grow into a sturdy 15-year-old boy. We are among the most fortunate of NF families. My brother is mildly affected; so far so good. But as we learned here today, if we didn't already know, with NF, it is never over. He has a couple of visible tumors, skin tumors, right now. He may have no more; he may have so many more that they are uncountable. We don't know at this point. And then there's always the threat of the more serious tumors which can come about at any time.

And I guess my one hope, regardless of what happens in the future for him, is that the "Joke-meister," as we call him, maintains his wonderful sense of humor throughout.

But it is not just Aaron and the West Michigan NF community. NF is worldwide, and it can happen in any family. And I must say that if the horror of this disease isn't enough to promote its financial support, something that has—that is just as important, and something you might want to consider as an added bonus, is that the study of