

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CDC

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this month marks the 50th anniversary of the Nation's premiere disease prevention agency—the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC was originally created to work with State and local health officials to fight malaria, typhus and other communicable diseases. Today, it's expanded mission is to promote health and the quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability.

Over the years, CDC has implemented numerous prevention programs that have saved lives and improved public health. One of the most dramatic accomplishments has been in combating infectious diseases through its childhood immunization initiatives. During this time, we have witnessed the eradication of the centuries-old scourge of smallpox, and the virtual elimination of polio in the Western Hemisphere.

In recent years, CDC has been at the forefront of the battle against HIV and AIDS. It has initiated numerous studies, surveys, and prevention activities targeting all populations, including women and youth. It has developed and coordinated community planning programs to ensure that prevention efforts include services that are effective in various communities and scientifically sound.

CDC's immunization leadership deserves great credit. Infectious diseases used to kill or disable thousands of children every year. In 1995, vaccine-preventable diseases reached an all-time low, largely because immunization rates had reached an all-time high.

Yet there is still much to be done on immunization. Today over 1 million 2-year-olds lack one or more doses of recommended vaccines. CDC established the childhood immunization initiative to strengthen efforts to ensure that children are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. The Vaccines for Children Program is one of the key components of this initiative, which CDC is implementing in partnership with States and providers nationwide.

CDC also works effectively to prevent birth defects and genetic diseases, and it has had remarkable success in reducing mental retardation, fetal alcohol syndrome, and neural tube defects, including spina bifida and anencephaly.

CDC also investigates many environmental hazards, including radiation, air pollution, and lead poisoning. In the 1970's, CDC was instrumental in encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency to order the removal of virtually all lead from gasoline, on the basis of studies that identified gasoline as a primary source of lead poisoning. The blood lead levels of American children have declined by 70 percent as a result of that action.

In another principle initiative, CDC is working in partnership with States

and public and private organizations to reduce tobacco use and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, by communicating health information to the public, and assisting States in conducting prevention programs to achieve these essential goals.

CDC promotes women's health in numerous ways, including the Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer Program, sexually transmitted disease programs, reproductive health research and analysis, and women's health data collection. In addition, CDC has established an Office on Women's Health and has made these issues one of the five priorities of the agency.

CDC also responds to emergencies at home and abroad, including floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters. It sent representatives to help respond to the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Federal building in Oklahoma City. In the last year, it has developed a national strategy for responding to emerging infectious disease threats. By implementing surveillance systems to identify problems and their causes, and developing appropriate responses, CDC's leadership has been indispensable in minimizing the impact of these threats on public health.

I commend the agency for its extraordinary contributions to the Nation and the world. We need its leadership now, more than ever. New public health challenges await us in the future. Diseases and disasters are no longer easily confined to their place of origin, and wars and natural disasters create new opportunities for the spread of infectious diseases. The lessons of the past 50 years have taught us that we must expect the unexpected. Whether the issue is fighting Ebola outbreaks in Africa the reemergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis in the United States, or many other public health threats, we know the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be at the forefront of the worldwide effort to combat them.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on July 1, 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Mr. President, in the United States and around the world, the words "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" are synonymous with public health. What started in 1946 as a small and comparatively insignificant branch of the Public Health Service, established to prevent the spread of malaria, is today one of the most highly regarded agencies in the Federal Government—an agency whose interests include every communicable disease known to man, and whose mission is to protect the public health by providing practical help whenever and wherever it is called upon to do so.

Over the years, the CDC has become more than just a center for disease control. As early as the 1950's, it became a center of epidemiology, providing surveillance of known diseases and ferreting out the cause of new ones wherever they occurred. From influenza, polio, tuberculosis, and smallpox in the United States to, more recently, Ebola fever in Zaire, the CDC has answered SOS calls from all over the world, and become not only a global leader in public health, but the Nation's and the world's response team for a wide range of health emergencies.

In 1992, it expanded its mission even further—from investigating and controlling disease to preventing it. Today, it champions the prevention of disability and premature death from chronic disease by promoting maternal, infant, and adolescent health, examining the interactions between people and their environment, coordinating the planning and implementation of various vaccine programs for children and adults, communicating information for public health action, and establishing a science base for public health practice.

Mr. President, over the years, the CDC has also had a variety of directors who have lead it with distinction, not the least of which is its current and distinguished director, Dr. David Satcher—a fellow Nashvillian whom I am proud to call my colleague and friend. A former president of Meharry Medical College, professor at the Morehouse School of Medicine, faculty member of the King-Drew Medical Center and the UCLA School of Medicine, Dr. Satcher brings not only world-class stature, but unmatched skill, integrity, and experience to his post as CDC.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure to extend to Dr. Satcher, and to all the staff and employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, my heartiest congratulations on the CDC's 50th anniversary, and my best wishes for their continued success in the future.

Mr. President, I thank the chair and yield the floor.

LEGISLATION REGARDING THE TERM "NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS"

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, yesterday I joined with Senators ROTH, MOYNIHAN, BAUCUS, and others on the Finance Committee in introducing a measure that will clarify and emphasize the true meaning of most-favored-nation [MFN] trading status—a misnomer if there ever was one. This is a change I long have advocated, and I hope the Senate will move quickly to approve this legislation.

Since 1989, MFN has gained notoriety as a special favor, a boon, that we grant to other nations. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. MFN denotes a concept used by trading nations that has been around since the 12th century. That concept is simple:

No nation shall be granted trade treatment less favorable than that granted to the most favored nation. In other words, no playing favorites. Every nation is to be treated equitably, without discrimination, when it comes to the terms of trade.

Thus, the concept represents the lowest common denominator of trade status—the basic treatment that all receive.

Over time, however, this concept came to be known not as, say, “non-discriminatory treatment” status, or “least favored nation” status, but as “most favored nation” status. This unfortunate terminology has fostered the mistaken view that MFN is a special treatment granted only to a privileged few. In fact, just the opposite is true: MFN, as the basic trading status between nations, is granted to virtually all nations with whom the United States trades. The exceptions can almost be counted on one hand: Serbia, Laos, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Cuba, North Korea, and Cambodia. I might add that Cambodia is about to come off that already meager list, if legislation now pending in Congress is approved.

So while the concept of MFN is sound, the term used to denote that concept is misleading and has resulted in a good deal of mischief—a fact that Senators MOYNIHAN and I have lamented often during Senate Finance Committee hearings. It is time that we called the MFN nondiscrimination concept by a term that more accurately represents its meaning.

Therefore, I am joining with Chairman ROTH, Senator MOYNIHAN and all of my Finance Committee colleagues to amend U.S. law, where appropriate, to replace the term MFN with the term “NTR:” normal trade relations. From this point on, we will discuss legislation and hold debate on the non-discrimination concept using the term NTR in place of MFN.

With the concept of MFN remain the same? Yes. Are we signaling a change in domestic policy, or modifying our international obligations in any way? No. But we are making perfectly clear to everyone the true meaning and purpose of this centuries-old concept. And it is my hope that our legislation will result in a better understanding of international trade relations, both here in the Congress and in the eyes of the public.

MARINE CORPS GENERAL OFFICER REQUIREMENT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on Wednesday, my colleague from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, posed a legitimate question regarding the Marine Corps general officer requirement. As I said at the time, that question deserves a legitimate answer. His question basically was, Why does this year's Defense authorization bill provide an extra 12 general officers for the Marines at a time when the Marines are very much in a downsizing mode? The Marine

Corps recognized the need for additional general officers several years ago. They developed a plan which was then validated by an independent civilian study and received scrutiny and approval at the Secretary of the Navy level. The Assistant Secretary of Defense received the study and found the rationale to be legitimate and supportable.

First, let me address Senator GRASSLEY's concern for the growth of service headquarters. The Marine Corps' request for additional general officers is not an attempt to increase the size of their service headquarters. For the record, half of those general officers authorized will fill warfighting billets which are currently vacant. Another four will be available for assignment to our warfighting CINCS and two will be used to fill the positions of commanding general at the two Marine Corps recruit depots. As Senator GRASSLEY quoted General Sheehan, “Service Headquarters should not be growing as the force shrinks.” I agree, and General Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps agrees; Marine Headquarters will not be growing with the addition of these general officers.

Second, let me talk for a few minutes about why the Marines need the additional generals. As the Marines have been brought into the joint arena, the Corps received no increase in flag officer strengths while willingly picking up additional joint requirements at the general officer level. As they have been called upon to fill legitimate joint billets, the Marines have had to leave internal warfighting billets vacant. For instance, a Marine division and a Marine airwing have colonels serving as assistant commanders. This leaves only one general for forces of 18,000 and 15,000 respectively. The other services may have at least two to three flag officers in comparable units.

As I have said, 6 of the 12 generals included in the bill would go directly into existing vacant warfighting positions. Four of the other six would permit the Marines an appropriate representation at the senior level in the joint arena. This will ensure equitable representation in joint duty positions as we envisioned when we passed Goldwater-Nickles. Let me add that the study that I mentioned earlier documented an even larger requirement for additional marine generals. The Commandant reduced that to 14. Our staff validated only 12. I really believe that this is the right thing for this body to do. This matter has received the closest of scrutiny at all levels and was found to be sound.

In summary, Mr. President, the Marine Corps would agree with General Sheehan's remarks that the unwarranted growth of headquarters staffs ultimately threatens the services' warfighting capabilities. However, as I just discussed, the Marine Corps is not trying to increase the size of its headquarters staff, but is first attempting to correct a long-standing deficiency in

the number of general officers authorized to fill existing warfighting billets, and second, is in good faith pursuing the need to meet the requirements of the joint warfighting arena mandated by Goldwater-Nickles. The Marine Corps' request has been studied extensively and is supported by both Secretary of the Navy, and the Department of Defense. Correspondingly, the Armed Services Committee has studied and agreed with the requirement.

I respect the inquiry from my colleague from Iowa. He asked a good question and I am pleased to be able to report that the Armed Services Committee's recommendation is supported by analytical evidence and is requirements based. I am confident that we have made the proper recommendation; however, I assure my colleague that the Armed Services Committee will continue to exercise its oversight responsibilities by reviewing the Marine Corps general officer requirements annually.

ALEXANDR LEBED'S ATTACKS ON FAITH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, when Alexandr Lebed called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints “mold and scum” he attacked my faith. Russia's new security chief—the man who stands behind Boris Yeltsin—attacked the faith of America's 6th largest church. I believe this requires an immediate and forceful response, and my colleagues and I have drafted a letter to Boris Yeltsin, Ambassador Vorontsov and Secretary of State Christopher.

In his campaign comments yesterday, Lebed struck the nationalist chord. He spoke of the “officially recognized” faiths of “Orthodox Christianity, Islam and Buddhism.” There is no mention of Russia's Jews, and that concerns me greatly.

The Mormon faith is a “security threat” to Russia, according to Lebed. It is comparable to the Japanese cult that unleashed poison gas on Tokyo last year. Comparing the Christian faith of the Mormons to a murderous cult led by a deranged individual is a calumny. Referring to the Mormons as a security threat appears to be anti-democratic demagoguery reminiscent of communist propaganda.

Remember that, in the old days of communist propaganda, the Russian people were kept in ignorance and fear with official myths of fabricated foreign threats.

Remember that, in the old days of the communist regime, the totalitarian state disguised itself as a paternalistic state that denied all individual rights, including the freedom of religious practice.

We shouldn't be surprised, after all. Lebed has taken his outrageous rhetoric right out of the resurgent communist party's playbook. This bodes ill for democratic evolution in Russia.

I think Mormons should be insulted, and I am declaring my outrage here. I