

clear answer that will adequately address our concerns. The studies will continue, but some of our difficulty in answering questions about veteran populations has to do with our poor understanding of birth defects. This legislation will help with these issues by increasing our scientific understanding of birth defects and increasing current prevention efforts in all populations. Therefore, I am proud to cosponsor this important bill.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, unless someone else wishes to speak, I think the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts and I are prepared to yield back.

I express my sincere thanks to Senator KENNEDY, who has long been a champion in this area. His very excellent statement does indicate the tremendous and compelling nature of this problem. This is a problem, unfortunately, that affects 150,000 children a year, but it never seems to get up on the radar screen.

Now, the fact that we are going to pass this on a voice vote—we had 33 sponsors. Actually, I ask unanimous consent that Senator HUTCHISON be added as a cosponsor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND. That brings it to 34. I hope that will make the point that we are serious about it. That this is the fifth year, Mr. President, this has got to be passed is an outrage; this is a bill that nobody objects to. I think anybody would think it is common sense. But it just gets crowded off the agenda. I do not intend to let it get crowded off.

I thank the Senator from Massachusetts, the distinguished chairman of the committee, the Senator from Vermont, and their staffs. We included as a substitute the measure as originally passed last year, and I know that we can count on the committee to insist upon it. I cannot believe we will fail this year once again to pass a measure which can do so much to reduce hardship and suffering and needless heartbreak throughout America.

Mr. President, I am prepared to yield back my time.

Is there anyone else seeking time?

Mr. President, I yield back my remaining time and would not ask for the yeas and nays per the previous agreement. I ask it be adopted by voice vote.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 371) was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. KENNEDY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 419), as amended, was passed.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. SANTORUM. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I will take only 1 minute and say a sincere thanks to Joe Pierle of my staff, who has worked on this measure and has had great cooperation with the Labor Committee. I also would thank previous staffers, Mark Hayes and Leanne Jerome, who have worked on this for 5 years now. And we hope this is the last time we have to do it.

Again, as I mentioned in my remarks, we very much appreciate and thank the leadership of the March of Dimes and the 3 million dedicated volunteers across this Nation.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Since this is the time for commendation, I would just, if I could, note that Governor BOND, then, in 1981, was effective in developing a long-range prevention, screening and health care initiative in response to Missouri's infant death rate being among the highest in the Nation, and in the 1989-90 period the Better Child Care Act that was developed here in legislation. Just looking through the Senator's achievements—and, as I mentioned earlier, his work on family and medical leave—it is a very clear indication of the Senator's very strong commitment to children. It is something all of us know here, but I think it is well worthwhile having that referenced at the time that we pass this very important piece of legislation.

Again, I commend him and will try to find, if we can, other ways of working on children's issues as well.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts. It is always a pleasure to work with him in the many, many areas in which we agree. It is not all of them, but when we do agree it is a real pleasure to work with a champion of children's health and well-being.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the Senator.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to be speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

1997 SPRING PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a wonderful group of young men and women who have served as Senate pages over the last 5 months.

This particular group has served with great distinction and has done a marvelous job maintaining a high standard of excellence in both the academic arena and the contributions they make to the day-to-day operations of the Senate.

Page life is not easy. In fact, most people may not fully appreciate the rigorous nature of the page's work. On a typical day, pages rise early and are in school by 6:15 a.m. After spending several hours each morning in school, the pages then report to the Capitol to prepare the Senate Chamber for the day's session. It is the responsibility of the pages to ensure that each Senator's desk has a copy of: The Senate Legislative and Executive Calendars; the legislation under consideration; and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as well as any other document that a Senator might want to have available to colleagues.

Throughout the day, pages are called upon to perform a myriad of tasks. These tasks might include obtaining copies of documents for a Senator's use during debate; ensuring that copies of relevant documents are available for Senators and staff; running errands between the Capitol and the Senate Office Buildings, as well as providing assistance at the regularly scheduled conference luncheons.

Once the Senate has concluded business for the day, no matter what time, the pages return to the dorm and prepare for the next day's classes and Senate session and, we hope, get some much-needed sleep. Even with all of this, the Senate pages continually discharge their tasks efficiently and cheerfully.

Mr. President, it is my hope that we have given the pages some insight into the need for individuals to become involved in community and civic activities. The future of our Nation strongly depends on the generations who will

follow us in this august body. I look forward to the likely possibility that one or more of this fine group of young people will return here to serve as Members of the U.S. Senate.

In closing, I hope the experiences the pages have gained here will inspire them to return to their respective communities as better citizens and with a greater appreciation for public service. Speaking on behalf of all Democratic Members, we wish them well and thank them for a job well done. Good luck and best wishes for a bright and successful future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of the 1997 spring pages be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1997 SPRING SENATE PAGES

DEMOCRATIC

Mary Elizabeth Begin (RI).
Brian Burton (NY).
Matthew Canter (WI).
Amanda Croushore (WI).
Andrea Hoekman (SD).
Charlotte Houghteling (MA).
Christina Monico (IL).
Robert Mook (VT).
George Nelson (MT).
Karoline Pershell (MI).
David Robinson (AR).
Timothy Smith (TX).
Shatika Starks (MD).
Nathan Zukas (WI).

REPUBLICAN

Carmen Anderson (SC).
LaKeisha Applegate (RI).
Kathryn Brotherton (WA).
Leslie Carter (SC).
Danielle DeArment (VA).
Hamilton Frey (MS).
Whitney Gilliam (SC).
Sarah Gregg (NH).
Jayne Merner (RI).
Catherine Mitchell (NC).
Jordan Raphael (VT).
Brian Reagan (UT).
Joanna Steckler (VA).
Matthew Wales (IN).
Mercedes Weyher (UT).

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 11, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,355,419,342,837.75. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, four hundred nineteen million, three hundred forty-two thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents)

One year ago, June 11, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,136,928,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-six billion, nine hundred twenty-eight million)

Five years ago, June 11, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,942,238,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred forty-two billion, two hundred thirty-eight million)

Ten years ago, June 11, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,293,413,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred ninety-three billion, four hundred thirteen million)

Fifteen years ago, June 11, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,075,173,000,000 (One trillion, seventy-five billion, one hundred seventy-three million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,280,246,342,837.75 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty billion, two hundred forty-six million, three hundred forty-two thousand, eight hundred thirty-seven dollars and seventy-five cents) during the past 15 years.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today, I would like to comment on this historic anniversary that we have reached. Today marks the 30th anniversary of the end of the Six-Day War, and the reunification of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. It is not only a landmark for the people of Israel, and for Jews around the world, but for people of all faiths and all nationalities.

The 19 years that East Jerusalem was under the control of Jordan saw Jews and Israelis denied the chance to visit the holy sites in the eastern side. The dividing walls and the barbed wire have now come down. When Jerusalem was reunited, Israel opened the city up to all faiths, and that practice continues. Jews, Christians, and Muslims now mingle freely in the entire city.

Reunification did come at a great cost—the price paid was the Six-Day War. Israel launched a preemptive strike against the Arab troops massed against her, and was successful. It ended the dividing of Jerusalem, but it did not end the gunfire. There is still turmoil in Israel.

However, although the Mideast peace process is by no means over, we have perhaps reached a point, as described by Churchill, at the end of the beginning. The recognition and continuation of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel is crucial to the ongoing peace process.

The United States Congress has recognized this fact, and through a series of actions has sought to insure that an undivided Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel. Senate Concurrent Resolution 106, in 1990, declared that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital and called for Israel and the Palestinians to undertake peace negotiations. This war later cited by Prime Minister Rabin as having helped bring participants of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements to the negotiating table. In 1995, the Jerusalem Embassy Act stated as a matter of U.S. Policy that Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital.

We now celebrate the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, and affirm our desire for that ancient city to remain reunited eternally. I ask, too, that Jerusalem eternally remain a symbol of freedom where all religions can share in visiting the holy city and be a model for religious tolerance and freedom throughout the globe.

NATO ENLARGEMENT AFTER PARIS

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, having recently returned from Paris and the signing of the NATO-Russia charter, I rise today to discuss what is one of the most important foreign policy questions facing the United States—and facing this body: The enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include several new democracies of Central Europe.

Mr. President, I know that what I have just said will at first seem counterintuitive to many Americans. Why is NATO enlargement so important? After all, the Soviet Union is but a bad memory, communism in Europe lives on in stunted form only in Serbia and Belarus, and no military threat in Europe is in sight.

Moreover, some will correctly point out, the Pacific Rim has become the world's premier area for economic growth, and Latin America, while also a prime opportunity for trade and investment, is vitally important to the United States because of problems like illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

So why are we bothering with Europe, much less tinkering with a hugely successful alliance like NATO?

Mr. President, these are legitimate questions that must be answered. I would submit, first of all, without minimizing the importance of Asia and Latin America, that Europe remains a vital area of interest for the United States for political, strategic, economic, and cultural reasons. A sizable percentage of the world's democracies are in Europe, and the continent remains a major global economic player and partner of the United States.

The European union, composed of 15 vibrant free-market democracies, has embarked upon an ambitious program to create an ever closer union with greater political, economic, and social integration. Most of Central and Eastern Europe has gone through several free elections, and democracy is putting down firm roots.

In economic terms, the European union, with a combined population a third larger than ours, has a combined gross domestic product that exceeds ours. While the United States has a larger—and, I might add, less balanced—trading relationship with Asia than with Europe, we invest far more in Europe.

Several new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe have highly educated work forces, already boast rapidly expanding economies, and already attract considerable American investment.

Moreover, most Americans trace their cultural roots to Europe, and millions retain personal ties to it. By any geopolitical standard, it would be a catastrophe for U.S. interests if instability would alter the current situation in Europe.

How might that instability occur? Well, no one believes that the Russian