

Yet, every year we hear almost hysterical attacks against any commitment to the arts at all. NEA has certainly picked a few clunkers, I admit, but nothing to justify the rhetorical flights that some of our colleagues direct against it. The House this year, by one vote, eliminated all commitment to the arts in America. I repeat, eliminated all commitment to the arts in America. That means a great loss for our children, and particularly those in rural America where there are no offsetting private resources to fund the arts.

I am hoping that the Senate will do better. I asked that the NEA be funded at administration's request of \$136 million. So far, the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has seen fit to fund the NEA at \$100 million. I believe that is a start, but I will oppose any actions taken on the Senate floor to lower that funding level.

#### CONCLUSION

As you can see, this bill needs a great deal of work, but we should see that as an opportunity rather than a disappointment. This bill is our chance, this year, to protect America's natural heritage for our children. To give renewed vitality to our artistic and cultural life, and to show that, in relations with America's sovereign Indian nations, that we are people who keep our word.

I commend the members of the Interior subcommittee for their hard work. I know they have devoted a lot of time to dealing with these contentious issues. They have done some good work. I applaud them for it. We can build on that as we debate the bill on the floor. I hope that the result will be an Interior bill in which we can all take great pride.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. WARNER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1173 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. FRIST addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF DR. DAVID SATCHER TO BE SURGEON GENERAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to speak to the nomination for the position of U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health to be made by the President of the United States today, which will be sent to Congress today for consideration.

Nearly 4 months ago, I, the only physician in the U.S. Senate, publicly called for the immediate nomination of a Surgeon General—specifically, one who could rise above partisanship, rise above the political fray to be a rea-

soned and nonpartisan spokesman for public health. The reason was very simple, and I outlined it at that time, and that is that the position of Surgeon General is one of recognition—a recognized authority not just in this country, but throughout the world. Second, it is a leadership position, leadership that can offer a clear, concise, consistent message. Third, I briefly made a point at that time of the advantages of actually merging into this position of Surgeon General that position of Assistant Secretary for Health.

For the past year, I have served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety within the Senate Labor Committee. This particular subcommittee oversees the statutory jurisdiction of the Public Health Service. The Surgeon General oversees the administration of the eight agencies of the Public Health Service, and the Surgeon General serves as the public's doctor, the Nation's doctor, the Nation's physician, in advising the Secretary of Health and Human Services. It is in this role that I feel even more strongly that we need a Surgeon General to provide that clear, that loud, that visible, that understandable voice to promote the health and the safety of our citizens.

Like most Americans of my generation, I vividly remember that very famous, well-known—and it's actually referred back to a lot today—Surgeon General's report back in 1964 warning of the dangers of cigarettes. Well, over 30 years ago now, we still point back to that single instance, that label, that stepping forth as a benchmark in warning our children today, and others, about the dangers of smoking.

In the 1980's, Dr. C. Everett Koop woke America up to something that at that time was terribly misunderstood, and that was the emerging AIDS crisis. He spoke with candor and realism that helped the American people, helped people who saw him on television, who saw him in person, who read his writings, separate fact from fiction about what at that time was a very mystical, misunderstood disease.

Just last summer, the Surgeon General's office issued a significant report demonstrating that moderate physical activity does indeed reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and some cancers. All of these reports were issued with no political agenda in mind—only the well-intentioned health of the Nation being the focus. We inevitably still face lingering public health problems, and we can only think about and imagine the new public health challenges that will face us—the current challenges of AIDS, emerging infectious diseases—and, again, who knows 3 years from now what new virus, bacteria, or resistance to bacteria will be a threat to each of our children? There are issues like foodborne illnesses, substance abuse, tobacco use by children, alcoholism.

We need to use the same approach today that we have used in the past. To

do so, I think it can be best accomplished by having a high-profile, experienced official who speaks with authority and can educate all of us, the public, about the important link between illness and personal behavior. Past experience shows that the uniformed position of the U.S. Surgeon General, with the right person in that position, can educate the Nation on these key public health issues. During Surgeon General Koop's tenure, by educating the public on the dangers of smoking, adult tobacco use decreased 7 percent. More recently, we have witnessed, unfortunately, increased drug and tobacco usage among our youth over the past years. Is it coincidental that during this same period the Surgeon General position has been vacant?

I think we as legislators, as trustees of the public, in many ways have an obligation, a responsibility, to appoint a Surgeon General and to do it as expeditiously as possible, so that we can direct our attention to improving the public health.

Now, clearly, tough problems, whether it is smoking or alcoholism or foodborne illnesses, a Surgeon General is not going to be able to fix them alone. But what he or she can do is be that one voice. We all know how important it is to have a simple message, a straightforward message, a concise message, a persistent message given by one voice—that voice being the Surgeon General.

Dr. Koop I think summarized the position very well. He said that the Surgeon General is a position " \* \* \* high calling with an obligation to interpret health and medical facts for the public."

I like the way Dr. Koop expressed it because, first of all, that is a calling, and in many ways public service can be a thankless job. So it really is a calling. But the obligation is one that the nominees must take very seriously; and, that is to interpret the health and medical facts for the public. We know that there is a tremendous amount written today, with the health advances, with the new discoveries. We just simply need to look at the new genes being discovered today, the human gene projects. But when a person looks at the medical literature, how can they interpret it? The Surgeon General can look at the reports, can assimilate the data, and help boil that down into a simple, crystal-clear message which can improve and affect the health of every American.

Dr. David Satcher today is being forwarded to the Senate as the nominee for the position of U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health. It will arrive in Congress today.

As a result, the Senate is asked to consider this nomination and to eventually vote as to whether or not to confirm Dr. Satcher for these positions. I hope that my colleagues will consider this nomination based on his qualifications and his ability—again, pushing partisanship and politics aside.

Dr. Satcher is a family physician. He is an accomplished researcher and educator, and he has a very long truly distinguished record in promoting public health. I understand his goal is to improve the health of our Nation based on science, which is the essential role of the Surgeon General's office.

The confirmation process is, as all of us in this body have seen, a fascinating one as we subject our nominees to interrogation. But it is critical that we interrogate in the right way—touch on the right issues, looking at the substance. It is very clear that we will not—and I as a physician very likely will not—agree with Dr. Satcher on every particular issue and every particular policy. But what I am confident of, in knowing Dr. Satcher, is that debate, that discussion, will be based on rigorous and disciplined science—not on politics, and not on rhetoric. That is what this position deserves, and that is what the American people deserve.

Looking out for this Nation's public health, both domestically and abroad, is truly a daunting role. Simply the way I define it is that is the public spokesperson for health for the United States of America. But I am confident that Dr. Satcher will reclaim the integrity surrounding that position that has historically been associated with that position of Surgeon General.

The sort of questions that we need to look at as Dr. Satcher goes through the Senate confirmation process are things like: Does this man have the commitment? Does he have the intelligence? Does he have the training, the honesty, and integrity to be the chief spokesperson for Americans on matters concerning public health? And I also would like to add—in no small part because I know Dr. Satcher is so strong here—it is critical that this person be able to articulate his views with clarity, with simplicity, and with dignity.

We have before us a man with a long record of demonstrated public service. He currently serves as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. In that role over the last several years he has demonstrated those very qualities that I mentioned are important in this confirmation process. He has been a strong manager. He has been an excellent spokesperson for public health. He has been a man of scientific integrity.

As a member of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, I am committed to the confirmation process and take very seriously the responsibility of voting on this nominee. I approach this with a very open mind and will continue to scrutinize everything that comes before the committee as information is being made available to the committee by the administration.

I have the one advantage, in that Dr. Satcher spent approximately 11 years in Nashville, TN, where I am from. I have been able to witness firsthand his accomplishments, and have had a chance to go back and look at many of his other distinguished qualifications.

I look forward to hearing his articulation of his goals, his statements, and the testimonials of others about him as we go through this confirmation process. This is a public process. It should be a public process.

I look forward to meeting with Dr. Satcher personally next week to discuss with him the specifics of his plans as the next Surgeon General.

As I mentioned, Dr. Satcher lived in Nashville. I consider him a Tennessean from my hometown for about 11 years where he ran a very prominent historically black medical college—the Meharry Medical School.

Dr. Satcher has a knowledge of population-based medicine, epidemiology, family practice, and a broad understanding of our health care system. He is widely respected by his peers in our community of Tennessee, in Nashville, and across this country.

Mr. President, at this juncture I ask unanimous consent that letters of support from the Tennessee Medical Association, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and the Phoenix Healthcare Corp. be printed in the RECORD.

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

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,  
Nashville, TN, September 10, 1997.

Hon. WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,  
President of the United States,  
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: On behalf of the 6,800 members of the Tennessee Medical Association, we take this opportunity to offer our wholehearted support for your nomination of David Satcher, MD, as the Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Satcher has ably proven his leadership capabilities by serving as president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. During his tenure at Meharry, he presented a strong voice in the Nashville community as a public health advocate. I am especially pleased to commend him to you for consideration in light of his stellar leadership, unparalleled history of community service, and sense of mission in the public health sector.

Over the last four years, he has only enhanced his position as a leader in the medical community, and displayed his clear commitment to disease prevention, by serving as the director of the Centers for Disease Control. He will make an outstanding spokesman for the nation's health and will be a valued adviser to both you and Secretary Shalala.

Without reservation, we commend Dr. Satcher's nomination to the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and encourage the full Senate to act responsibly and quickly to confirm his nomination both as Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health.

Sincerely,

R. BENTON ADKINS, MD,  
President, Tennessee Medical Association.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL CENTER,  
Nashville, TN, September 11, 1997.

President BILL CLINTON,  
The White House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, I wish to extend our strong support for the nomination of Dr. David Satcher for the positions of As-

sistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

We believe Dr. Satcher is well qualified to fill these two positions where his medical knowledge, executive experience, and very real eloquence on behalf of the nation's health make him uniquely suited. As director of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) he has lead the health community's effort to increase childhood immunization, expand access to breast and cervical cancer screening, and build a framework that will better enable us to defend against the threats of infectious diseases.

The announcement today of the nation's health vital statistics are a strong indicator of a strengthened CDC under Dr. Satcher's leadership. These statistics show a 26% decline of mortality from HIV-AIDS between 1995 and 1996 for 25-44 year olds; teen birth rate declining for the fifth straight year; a new record low in the infant mortality rate; and continued increase in the number of women obtaining early prenatal care.

In addition, during Dr. Satcher's tenure at Meharry Medical College he was an absolutely critical voice on behalf of medical education and research, but even more importantly he was a voice on behalf of the underserved and uninsured of Middle Tennessee. We believe he will bring a perspective that will well serve the medical community and the patients we care for.

Sincerely,

HARRY R. JACOBSON, M.D.,  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs.

PHOENIX HEALTHCARE CORP.,  
Nashville, TN, September 11, 1997.  
President BILL CLINTON,  
The White House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am honored and pleased to write this letter in support of Dr. David Satcher for Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health. I have known Dr. Satcher since 1982 when he became President of Meharry Medical College where I served as Vice President of Finance and Business from 1973-1977. During his tenure at Meharry, we worked very closely on a number of local community and health care issues, including the merger of Metropolitan General Hospital and Meharry Hubbard Hospital. Dr. Satcher and I, during his tenure in Nashville, were also Deacons in First Baptist Church—Capitol Hill and members of 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee.

Dr. Satcher is a physician-scholar with a strong public health focus. Intellectually, Dr. Satcher will make an excellent person for the position of Assistant Secretary for Health which is responsible for health policy. His experience and ability to articulate with passion on matters promoting health and preventing disease, injury and premature death makes him also capable of being the national physician, Surgeon General of the United States. His thoughtful presentations on health care matters and administrative experience will enhance the health status of Americans generally as he has done during his tenure at the CDC where childhood immunization rates have increased from 55% in 1992 to 78% in 1996. Finally, one could not get a person with higher moral and ethical standards than Dr. Satcher.

I certainly hope that the nation will accept the services of Dr. Satcher as Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health. The country will be well served by a person of his ability.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL H. HOWARD,  
Chairman.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if I just look at these letters from Vanderbilt

University Medical Center, Dr. Harry Jacobson in one sentence describes very well what his peers feel about Dr. Satcher.

I quote from that letter.

We believe Dr. Satcher is well qualified to fill these two positions where his medical knowledge, executive experience, and very real eloquence on behalf of the Nation's health make him uniquely suited.

From the Tennessee Medical Association, talking about his tenure at Meharry—remember, he was there for 11 years—Dr. Benton Adkins, who is President of the Tennessee Medical Association, writes:

During his tenure at Meharry, he presented a strong voice in the Nashville community as a public health advocate. I am especially pleased to commend him to you for consideration in light of his stellar leadership, unparalleled history of community service, and sense of mission in the public health sector.

In the third letter, Mr. Samuel Howard, chairman of Phoenix Healthcare Corp., who had known him well through working together at Meharry, says:

Dr. Satcher is a physician-scholar with a strong public health focus.

Those are just samplings of the sort of recommendations by his associates.

I urge my colleagues to focus on Dr. David Satcher's qualifications to hold the two positions of U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health. As I mentioned, he is a family physician. He respects the role of the family within the community. He is an accomplished scientist and researcher. He has a Ph.D. as well as a medical degree. His Ph.D. is in cytogenetics—he allows science to drive decisionmaking, not politics. He is a proven public health leader—an experienced public health leader—having served as Director, where he currently serves, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, which is that Health and Human Service agency responsible for promoting health and preventing disease, injury, and premature death, with 11 major branches and worldwide responsibilities.

Mr. President, in closing, as a physician, I will have to say that ultimately much of my feeling comes back to putting faith in the trust, which is a very vital part of the doctor-patient relationship. I look at this very similarly. The Surgeon General is the people's doctor. And, to be truly effective, Dr. Satcher must earn and maintain the public's trust on health issues. Trust I think will be a large part of this nomination. It was the main reason, if we look at failures, I think that occurred in the past as related to this position.

From everything that I know of Dr. Satcher, he not only has the ability to be a reasoned scientific voice but he has the ability to win the trust of the American people.

I am fortunate to have known Dr. Satcher in his capacity as physician, as a president of a medical school, and as the head of one of our great public health agencies.

I will work with my colleagues in the U.S. Senate in this nomination process, and I urge their full, fair, and expeditious consideration of Dr. Satcher's nomination.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to say a few words this morning about the Vice President of the United States—a man with whom most of us in this Chamber have served either in the House or here in the Senate.

Right now, the bright glare of the public spotlight is on AL GORE. I think all of us know that public spotlight can sometimes be very harsh and unforgiving. Sometimes it can distort. But I don't believe the frenzy of the moment is going to diminish the achievement of two decades.

AL GORE has spent 21 years in public life—and it has been a distinguished 21 years by any standard. Before his career in the Congress, he was an investigative reporter for the Nashville Tennessean. Prior to that time, he was a student at Vanderbilt's Divinity and Law Schools. And prior to that, he served this country honorably during the Vietnam war.

People sometimes make a caricature of AL GORE's reputation for seriousness and honesty. But the truth of the matter is that AL GORE earned that reputation by immersing himself totally in his responsibilities as a lawmaker.

In the House, he mastered the subtleties of the arms control debate and made internationally recognized contributions to stabilizing the nuclear arms race. In the Senate, he devoted himself passionately to protecting the environment. He was one of the first in this body to appreciate the potential of Federal Government supercomputers and the backbone that ultimately became the information superhighway. There's every likelihood that he will be remembered as a parent of the internet just as his own father is remembered as one of the founders of the Interstate Highway System.

By almost all accounts, AL GORE has been the most influential and effective Vice President in modern American history. His Reinventing Government Program has literally revolutionized the executive branch agencies, reducing the size of bureaucracies, cutting out red tape, and building a more business-like paradigm for the delivery of vital services to the American people.

That litany of achievement is real and familiar. I only run through it to

give some sense of proportion to the charges that are now dominating the news. And my point is simple: we know AL GORE in this Chamber. The American people know him. The hearings we've had here in the Congress have revealed nothing to alter what we know. And I don't believe that insubstantial charges based on ambiguous law are going to count for anything against AL GORE's solid and unambiguous record of public service.

I'm confident that, ultimately, a dispassionate and fair-minded American people will put the issues raised in the last campaign in their proper perspective. And I'm equally confident that, at the end of the day, AL GORE's reputation for public service and integrity will emerge absolutely intact.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, September 11, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,414,576,336,750.83. (Five trillion, four hundred fourteen billion, five hundred seventy-six million, three hundred thirty-six thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars and eighty-three cents)

One year ago, September 11, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,219,274,000,000. (Five trillion, two hundred nineteen billion, two hundred seventy-four million)

Five years ago, September 11, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,032,390,000,000. (Four trillion, thirty-two billion, three hundred ninety million)

Ten years ago, September 11, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,353,045,000,000. (Two trillion, three hundred fifty-three billion, forty-five million)

Twenty-five years ago, September 11, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$435,983,000,000 (Four hundred thirty-five billion, nine hundred eighty-three million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,978,593,336,750.83 (Four trillion, nine hundred seventy-eight billion, five hundred ninety-three million, three hundred thirty-six thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars and eighty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

#### NOMINATION OF DR. DAVID SATCHER TO BE SURGEON GENERAL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend President Clinton for his announcement today of his nomination of Dr. David Satcher to be Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health.

David Satcher is an excellent choice for these important positions. As Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the last 4 years, he has ably led that agency which is responsible for protecting health and preventing disease, injury, and premature death. He is uniquely