

Association, and not just over 20 States that have restricted its sales, but major sports organizations, you come to the inescapable conclusion that this is a dangerous product, and yet it is sold to Americans. The Food and Drug Administration sits on its hands doing very little.

What is at issue, I am afraid, is now a growing philosophy that we hear from this administration of "let the market work this out." The market worked it out for Sean Riggins, a 16-year-old high school football player, who lost his life because the marketplace would not restrict the sale of the product.

Recently, I attended a high school reunion. I will not put on the record which one it was, but believe me, I am getting up there. I ran into a friend of mine who sells products in gas stations in California. I talked to him about these Yellow Jackets and ephedra. He said that is the biggest moneymaker in gas stations. It has a 100-percent markup.

He said: There is nothing else I sell in the gas station that is as profitable as these Yellow Jackets. There is nothing like it. This is a big winner. That is why we put it at the cash register.

I said: Are you worried about the impact this will have on kids?

He said: If this was dangerous, the Government would take it off the market.

We know it is dangerous, and this Government, under the Clinton administration, as well as under the Bush administration, has failed to take the necessary action to regulate the sale of this product to make certain this product is safe and effective for American consumers and if unsafe to take it off the market.

I call on Secretary Thompson today—and I will continue to—to take action to protect Americans. Do not allow another boy to die in another town in America. Do not let some unsuspecting 12, 13, 14 or 15-year-old lose his or her life because we failed to act, because we are cowered by the political muscle of groups like Metabolife because we are afraid we would somehow be meddling in the marketplace if we came in and told the consumers the truth about the danger of this drug and the fact it is not safe.

It is time for Secretary Thompson and the Food and Drug Administration to accept their responsibility. To do less is to endanger the lives of unsuspecting Americans. I call on those who are in the business of running drugstores, gas stations, and convenience stores to have a conscience. Take these products from the front of the cash register and at least put them on the back counter, if not take them out completely. Make certain that kids cannot get their hands on them and misuse them; so they cannot get a buzz on them with the beer they managed to get their hands on or a caffeinated soda or cannot take them before a football game and end up dead like this poor young man in Lincoln, IL.

This is, I believe, a moral imperative. I am hopeful that those across America who understand how valuable the lives of our children are and how important it is for our Government to stand up and protect American citizens will do something and do it quickly.

I ask unanimous consent that the material to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

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

LOGAN COUNTY CORONER,
Lincoln, IL, October 9, 2002.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Dirksen Senate Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN: It is with great pleasure and honor to have testified on the ill effects of Ephedrine, Yellow Jackets and their related cousins on October 8 at your committee hearing.

Your knowledge and presentation allowed the Riggins and myself to be more at ease, if that is possible, in telling Sean's story. Your genuine concern for your constituents championing a just cause even before our tragedy was very apparent.

After landing in Bloomington, Illinois we were made aware of the FDA's move on NVE by Peoria's Channel 31, and the Bloomington Pantagraph. We can only hope our message is received by parents, students, teammates, and the general public before another individual is stricken.

Your staff of Anne Marie Murphy, Joe Shoemaker, Brian and Erica were extremely helpful, courteous and professional. We can't thank you enough.

We held Sean's inquest at 3:00 p.m. today in Lincoln.

We will be ever vigilant on this cause. Please feel free to contact us if you ever need further statements.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. FRICKE,
Logan County Coroner.
KEVIN AND DEBRA RIGGINS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LINCOLN). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I think Senator DORGAN has left and will be returning. He was going to ask unanimous consent that he speak after I do. I believe he made a decision not to do that at this time.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JESSE HELMS

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to a great American and friend, Senator JESSE HELMS. I speak with mixed emotions. I am happy to see that after a long and distinguished career, he will have more time with his wife Dot, his beloved wife of 60 years, as well as enjoying time with his children and grandchildren, but I know a man of this nature and capacity is impossible to replace.

In the words of the Weekly Standard, Executive Editor Fred Barnes wrote not too long ago:

His unflinching devotion to conservative principles has made him a powerful figure. He is oblivious to the buzz, the chatter, the gossip of the press and polls and the permanent establishment. He is totally inner directed. He cares little for details or process, but when someone clashes with his conserv-

ative views, he steps up no matter how unpopular that makes him. He wins some, he loses some, but he is always a player who can be reckoned with even when he is acting alone.

I remember one such occasion when Senator HELMS was acting alone in his outspoken criticism of the United Nations. He refused to approve payment of U.N. dues until their lavish, bloated, and unwieldy bureaucracy—actually corrupt bureaucracy—was reformed. It went on for some time.

They said he wanted to destroy the United Nations, and he said he wanted reform. As chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, he was able to hold that legislation up, and he stayed firm. The mainstream media and activists chastised him. They tried to mock him, but he knew there were great problems at the U.N., and he would not give in until it was improved. It should be told that in the end, the United Nations gave in. Reforms that will make the United Nations a better, more honest, effective, and viable organization were passed, and the money was released.

I do not want to attempt to catalog Senator HELMS' accomplishments. His record speaks well to that. It is quite clear others have spoken of them in the last few days. People on both sides of the aisle have talked about his remarkable service in this Senate. It does seem to me that he has an unusual tenacity, an unusual commitment to principle.

Even when it might appear that he loses, sometimes he wins. For example, even though he was unable to block the Chemical Weapons Convention, which he did oppose, he did win 28 of the 33 concessions or amendments or changes in that treaty that he had asked for, making it a much better treaty in the end.

Senator HELMS' career, of course, should not be focused entirely on foreign policy, although he was a leader in that area. As an Eagle Scout myself, I really appreciated him standing up for the Boy Scouts. He was quite eloquent in these issues that came up several years ago.

In the article I mentioned earlier by Fred Barnes, it concludes by asking if JESSE HELMS can be replaced. Barnes' conclusion is similar to mine: That is a task that is "probably more than we can hope for."

I have tried to think about what makes him special, and here are a few thoughts of mine. Others may disagree. Maybe this Senator would disagree, but I believe his leaving this body is a significant event, and perhaps we should think about what has made him unique in his service.

First, I believe Senator HELMS is a provincial patriot. He really admired Margaret Thatcher. I have heard him talk about her. It was remarked that Margaret Thatcher was a provincial, that she was a daughter of a shop owner, and she had inculcated in her youth all the classical values of England. That is what we have in JESSE

HELMS. He has never been a part of the urbane crowd, the radical sheik crowd. He knows it, and they know it. It galled them that he could not be intimidated by an editorial in the New York Times or the Washington Post or some such event.

He is a man of faith, a Baptist. He comes from the soil of North Carolina, and he is proud of it. He prefers the affection and commendation of those in his province over those in the great salons where the masters of the universe operate. In fact, he respects the people of his beloved State and deeply shares their values. That is what he fought for every day.

The cynical, rootless left, the politically correct, those without principles, those who do not believe in truth, those who do not comprehend the greatness of America were not for him.

Indeed, he saw them as the problem. And, at their core, these folks understood that, too. They knew his disagreement with their actions was deep and honest. Try as they might, it would not go away.

I think some may have hated him for it, but JESSE HELMS did not hate. He absolutely does not hate. He only wants to do the right thing for America because he values America over politics and because he is courageous in his stand for principle, and he often would not be moved. The left never understood it. Some thought he hated them, but he does not. He loved them. He loves America. He wants a better life for all Americans.

The truth is that Senator HELMS is the most kind and considerate person. His soft-spoken ways are known by all. His modesty and unassuming manner are plain for all to see. His wonderful wife Dot shares those same qualities and is loved by all who know her. He is a true Christian gentleman in the southern style—courtly, gracious, quick of wit, and firm in friendships. He is a most remarkable person, exceedingly intelligent, well read. No one here can turn a phrase better than JESSE HELMS.

When he has been wrong or slow to understand, he has admitted it. His conversion to advocacy for a much stronger role of the United States in the fight against AIDS in Africa is a very recent example. He even apologized for being slow to understand the moral significance of that tragedy in Africa.

Finally, the career of Senator HELMS cannot be discussed without remarking on the critical role he played in enabling the focus of democracy, free enterprise, and faith to triumph over the godless totalitarian forces of communism. He was a constant cold warrior. He saw the evil in the "evil empire," and his drive to overcome it never slackened. He was relentless, even when undergoing attacks from the so-called opinion leaders of America. It certainly was not those opinion leaders and pundits who won the cold war. They blew hot and cold—mostly cold—

on U.S. policies. But the people in the provinces knew. They knew there could be no compromise with freedom and communism, and fortunately those people had a strong, able, and true voice in JESSE HELMS. He stayed the course. The Soviet Union collapsed.

There were many close calls in that struggle and many highlights in the battle of the cold war. One of those critical moments came when Senator HELMS came to believe in Ronald Reagan and his view of the role of the United States in this struggle. JESSE worked hard, at a critical point in Reagan's campaign, to produce a great victory in North Carolina that gave him the nomination and went on to allow him to be President. I have heard him speak about that moment.

Together, they persevered. The "evil empire" collapsed, and the victory was won. That was a partnership of no small note. It was a partnership of historic importance.

Senator HELMS, we appreciate you. You played a critical role in the struggle for freedom. We thank you for your courage and consistency. American freedom is in your debt, and we are obliged for your service.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. CORZINE. Madam President, I rise today to say a simple thank you to a number of my retiring colleagues, good people who have done good things to serve the citizens of their States but, more importantly, serve our Nation.

I particularly mention MAX CLELAND and JEAN CARNAHAN, who are exceptional and special people. They are heroic in their own way, as the term is truly defined. The courage and optimism they have shown in their lives strengthened mine. The grace they brought to their service in the Senate, to their States and the Nation, is truly remarkable.

MAX CLELAND does not need extensive description to know that he is a patriot, one who cares about America, worked hard to voice support for veterans and supports working people across this country.

I worked with him closely on the economic plans we thought would stimulate the economy. He is a remarkable winner. He came into New Jersey and helped me as I was a fledgling, aspiring Senator. He took me into worlds I had not known, and I truly will miss him, as will all of us in the Senate.

JEAN CARNAHAN is my desk mate on my right, No. 96 out of 100, me being 97. We sat together, laughed together, worked together, learned together. She showed me how to be a little bit better at being a Senator than I might otherwise be. She is an inspiration. In her own life, she dealt with tragedy and turned it into opportunity. A remarkable woman who truly cared about the people of Missouri and this Nation, she

brought great grace to everything she did.

MAX CLELAND and JEAN CARNAHAN are an inspiration to the lives of all of us now and as we go forward. So I congratulate them in their service and celebrate their lives.

From a different perspective, less personal because I have worked less frequently with them and certainly have a different partisan perspective, but I commend their service and respectfully congratulate STROM THURMOND, BOB SMITH, JESSE HELMS, and TIM HUTCHINSON. They are remarkable people in their own right. Certainly, Strom Thurmond is someone with whom it is an honor to be in the Senate, to see the courage he brought every day to his service in the Senate while I was here, but to the Nation in general.

For years, BOB SMITH, his great leadership on the environment I saw firsthand as a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

I thank JESSE HELMS and TIM HUTCHINSON for their service. Each has been a major contributor to America's political life and the deliberations in this great body.

So, again, a simple thank you.

Finally, maybe most importantly, I want to say a few words about my colleague, my political mentor and my friend, BOB TORRICELLI. Let me begin by saying most certainly that, like Senator TORRICELLI himself, I was deeply disappointed in his admitted errors of judgment. The subsequent reprimand by the Ethics Committee was a most unfortunate blemish on a career and life of extraordinary service, certainly to the people of New Jersey and I believe to the Nation.

In the fullness of time, we all are judged not always by one event in our lives; we are judged by the complete contribution we make or we do not make. Senator TORRICELLI is one who has made many contributions to individuals, to my State, and to the Nation. It is remarkable, frankly, that his whole adult life has been dedicated to public service, stretching 20 years in elected office and probably 25, 26 years from his early days in college.

He was a part of the political environment and public service, starting as a deputy legislative counsel for New Jersey's Gov. Brendan Byrne—I think that actually means he was his driver—but he was an important part of one of the most successful administrations and leadership of the State of New Jersey. A great man, Governor Byrne, gave Senator TORRICELLI his start.

Then he worked in the Carter White House with Vice President Mondale as a senior staff person, one who was close to many of the important issues in foreign affairs and domestic policy on which the Vice President worked.

In 1982, he was elected to the House of Representatives and served there for 14 years, a strong, constant voice, a representative of New Jersey. He worked on matters relating to transportation systems, environmental