

What we remember is not the occasional flash of temper but his modesty, moderation, and self-deprecating humor, and his capacity for bridging differences. He was a man of great humanity who stood for reason and reconciliation in a time of division and disunity.

Ed Muskie graced this body with his healing and imposing presence, his self-deprecating humor, and his personal integrity for 21 years. He served his State and country courageously for more than three decades. I am honored to have served with him, and want to express my deepest sympathy, and that of this body, to Jane, his wonderful wife of 48 years, and to their children Stephen, Ellen, Melinda, Martha, and Edmund, Jr.

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS WEEK

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, every morning, millions of parents kiss their children goodbye as they trade the hat of parent for the hat of teacher, police officer, waitress or doctor. When they leave home to work, they must leave their precious young ones in the care of someone else. Sometimes, parents find a relative. More often, they rely on strangers. As a parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to trust someone else with the well being of your child. Fortunately, most parents have reliable child care providers to depend on. We hear occasional horror stories of abuse and mistreatment by child care providers, but the majority of child care workers always have the best interests of the child at heart. April 21-28 will be the Week of the Young Child. During this important week, South Dakota will recognize Child Care Provider's Day on April 22. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize these hard working child care providers who support millions of American families each day.

My State has a claim to fame that most Americans would not guess. According to the most recent census data, 71 percent of mothers with children under the age of six are working moms. The national average is less than 60 percent. This means that reliable, quality child care is an issue not just for parents in urban areas. Families in rural States must search for adequate child care, too. For families who live in remote areas of South Dakota, this may mean driving to the next town to find day care services.

Child care providers do not have an easy task. A child's formative years are crucial. Caretakers must provide a stimulating environment for growth and learning. They do not merely babysit. Each child must be reached individually to develop language, reasoning and motor skills. Only a secure and nurturing environment can allow this to happen. In creating a home away from home, child care workers are providing American families with a very valuable service. For most families, success at work and stable home rela-

tionships hinge on professional child care.

Congress has been working hard over the last year to reform the Federal child care system. I wholeheartedly support efforts to end overlap of programs and needless bureaucracy. Child care should be affordable, accessible, and reliable. I will continue working in Washington to ensure quality child care for all American families.

Many thanks to the child care workers who daily provide for our children. They keep our families and workplaces on track. They should receive special recognition during the Week of the Young Child.

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, March 28, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,071,791,748,467.89.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,173.26 as his or her share of that debt.

GATT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, yesterday I spoke briefly about our failure to correct a loophole in the GATT legislation which gives a handful of companies unprecedented and unintended special treatment. Our distinguished colleague, Senator HATCH, raised a few points which my distinguished colleague, Senator CHAFEE and I feel deserve clarification.

For several months, we have sought an opportunity to remedy the mistake made by Congress and the administration when the GATT implementing legislation was enacted. The legislation's grandfather provisions were meant to apply to every person, product, company, and industry in the country. But the final GATT legislation accidentally excluded the prescription drug industry because it lacked a conforming amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. As a result, the prescription drug industry is the only industry in the country which received the patent extension but is unfairly exempted and shielded from competition. Because of this mistake, consumers and taxpayers are paying billions of dollars far too much for a handful of drugs, including Zantac, the world's best-selling drug.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I agree entirely with my colleague, Senator PRYOR, and wish to raise one simple but important point. It should be noted clearly and conclusively that there is an extensive record of evidence from the U.S. Trade Representative, the Patent and Trademark Office, and the Food and Drug Administration that a mistake was made by both the Congress and the administration. There is absolutely no question as to this fact. To dispel any doubts, I would like to submit for the RECORD an excerpt from Ambassador Mickey Kantor's testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 27:

The Congress and the Administration did not, however, take into account the technical interrelationship between the Patent Act and the regulation of pharmaceutical products by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. In fact, no one—including those in the private sector who watched these developments closely—took this interrelationship into account. This [Senate Judiciary] Committee and the House Judiciary Committee held a joint hearing on August 12, 1994, to review the intellectual property provisions of the URAA and not a single reference was made to this system. In all this time, not a single reference was made to the fact that pharmaceuticals may be treated differently than other forms of technology, not even by Gerald Mossinghoff of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, who testified in support of this legislation without referring to this provision . . . We did not intend for this to happen and we support the correction of this oversight through the appropriate amendments to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Patent Act.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I concur wholeheartedly with Senator CHAFEE. Let me add that for a number of months, we have sought an opportunity to vote on the missing conforming amendment. In December, a primary argument against acting on the amendment was the alleged need for a committee hearing. The February 27 hearing was never sought by us and, in fact, it did not add a single additional fact to the public record on this issue. The hearing simply reinforced the substantial body of evidence which proves a costly and inequitable mistake was made and is in urgent need of correction.

Nor has a markup in any committee ever been an objective of those seeking to correct this congressional mistake. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator HATCH promised a markup on this issue by the end of March. That apparently was not possible. My colleagues, Senators CHAFEE and BROWN, and I believe very strongly that any further delay in remedying this clear and costly congressional error will only benefit a handful of companies at the expense of their competitors and the American public.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by