

Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 3 p.m., on Wednesday, May 10, 1995, in open and closed session, to receive testimony on tactical intelligence and related activities in the Army and Air Force in review of S. 727, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, and the future years defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Immigration Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on "Verification of Applicant Identity for Purposes of Employment and Public Assistance."

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AN ETHICAL DILEMMA

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, there is a lot of emotion and not much rationality to the question of whether we use fetal tissue to assist people who have problems, particularly with Parkinson's disease.

It is interesting that in the U.S. Senate, many of those who support the use of fetal tissue comprise those who are totally opposed to abortions.

I believe their stand makes sense, much more sense than those who emotionally oppose use of fetal tissue.

If for a reason of taste, or culture, or religion, people are opposed to any transplant, I understand it.

When I die, if my eyes or any part of me can be used to be of assistance to someone else, I want that done.

I would think most people who have had an abortion would want the same.

The requirements are very strict. You cannot make any money on it. You cannot designate to whom the tissue would go. You cannot even know to whom it is going.

Joan Beck has written a column in the Chicago Tribune that outlines the situation clearly, and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The column follows:

[From the Chicago Tribune, April 30, 1995]

AN ETHICAL DILEMMA—IN DEFENSE OF FETAL TISSUE TRANSPLANTS TO TREAT NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

(By Joan Beck)

He was 59 years old and he had had Parkinson's disease for eight years. His body was becoming increasingly rigid and immobile. He had trouble moving and talking clearly. He had tremors he couldn't stop and he had to give up his job.

The medication that had helped early in the onset of the illness could no longer give him much relief, despite increasing doses. As the disease inexorably progressed, he decided to try a new, experimental treatment, despite the intense political and medical controversy that has marked its development.

Surgeons inserted several grafts of fetal tissue into one side of his brain. A month later, they repeated the procedure on the other side. The transplants came from seven donors, aborted babies from 6½ to 9 weeks old.

Within a few weeks after the surgery, the man's condition improved markedly, according to a report in the current issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. He could once again handle daily activities, even take part in an active exercise program. He needed less medication, but now it was much more effective.

A year and a half after the first transplant, the patient had surgery on his ankle to repair damage from a fracture years earlier. As he was recovering from the operation, he suffered a massive pulmonary embolism and died.

Studying his brain after death, doctors found conclusive evidence that the transplants had worked as hoped. The fetal neurons had survived, grown and were functioning, replacing the patient's damaged brain cells, just as the improvement in his symptoms had indicated.

An estimated 200 transplants of fetal tissue into human brains have been done over the past several years. Some have been performed in other countries, some under scientifically questionable circumstances. Results have been uneven and often discouraging.

The case reported this week is important because it is the first to prove that fetal tissue transplants can survive and function and that they can be linked to a patient's improvement.

The long-range implications are medical, political and ethical. The success story offers eventual hope for hundreds of thousands of patients, not only with Parkinson's disease but also with Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease and other disorders caused by brain cell impairment and destruction for which no good treatment or cure is now available.

Much research is still necessary, however. More data are needed about optimal size of the grafts, whether the tissue can be frozen in advance, which patients are likely to benefit, how long improvement will last, whether the underlying disease will eventually destroy the new brain cells.

Fetal tissue is considered necessary for transplants because it can survive and grow where grafts of more mature cells do not. It can take on new biological functions, unlike other cells. And the recipient's body is not so likely to reject it.

But the research has been slowed in the past for political and ethical reasons.

The problem is that such transplants almost always must come from abortions—and that has raised fierce and intractable opposition from pro-life forces. They see the possibility that women will deliberately get pregnant and have an abortion to provide a graft for a loved one—or even worse, sell the tissue on some sort of medical black market.

Even with tight controls, abortion opponents argue, using tissue from aborted fetuses will make it easier for women to decide to have an abortion because they can rationalize that some desperately ill person could benefit and that might ease any guilt feelings they may have.

Should fetal transplants eventually prove to be of great medical benefit and become widely used, it will be even harder to rally the nation to oppose abortion—the source of such grafts—pro-life leaders fear.

In response to anti-abortion fervor, the Reagan administration prohibited the use of federal funds for research using fetal tissue for humans, a major setback because most research grants are based on federal ap-

proval. Some experiments did continue, however, using private money, and in other countries.

Under mounting pressure from Congress, President Bush attempted a compromise. He authorized a grant of more than \$2 million to study whether fetal tissue obtained as a result of miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies—not deliberate abortions—could be used for transplants.

The answer turned out to be no. Out of 1,500 such fetuses tested, all but seven were unsuitable because of chromosome errors (a major cause of miscarriage) or problems with bacteria and virus contamination.

In 1993, President Clinton finally lifted the ban on federal funding for fetal tissue research. The use of such transplants is carefully governed by state and federal laws and government and medical guidelines similar to those that cover other transplants, including the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act which has been adopted in all states.

The stark facts remain. Abortion is legal in the United States. About 1.5 million abortions occur every year. Aborted tissue is now discarded, even though it holds the potential for successfully treating several terrible, intractable diseases.

Abortion is a tragedy, as is death from gunshot wounds and traffic accidents. But the success of fetal tissue grafts isn't going to encourage abortion any more than organ transplants increase car crashes and murders.

Research is under way to find other means to treat neurological disorders, some of it building on findings from fetal tissue studies. But until these experiments are successful, surely it is more ethical and merciful to try to use fetal tissue than simply destroy it. •

TRIBUTE TO THE GREEN MOUNTAIN BOY SCOUTS

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Green Mountain Boy Scouts and congratulate the Boy Scouts of America on their 85th anniversary. It seems fitting, indeed, that the Green Mountain Boy Scouts of America will hold its statewide camporee on the historic Rutland fairgrounds. While 10,000 Vermont scouts and 4,000 adult volunteer leaders will be marking the 85th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America in June, the Rutland Fairgrounds prepares to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Vermont State Fair.

To these fairgrounds in 1861 came 1,000 young men to form the First Vermont Regiment of infantry, the initial unit sent from Vermont to fight in the Civil War. It is my understanding that the first night in camp, a chill wind came down off Pico and Killington flattening many of their tents. It was a strong omen, for hard times were ahead for the Vermonters who went off to fight in that war. Before it was over, nearly 35,000 young men from Vermont would serve, and more than 5,000 would give their lives.

Those lads, every one of them volunteers, established a model of service from which Vermont did not falter during four bloody years. It is a model that we still find personified by the young people, and their leaders, who fill the ranks of scouting in Vermont.