

ancestry, or a little of everything, we are all fair, honest, hardworking, and friendly to a fault. And we can all cook!! And we all talk with this accent!!

So come down and join us, if not this year, certainly for the big Tricentennial celebration. A lot of faces and names will be familiar to you: Brett Favre, the great NFL quarterback, astronauts Fred Haise of Apollo XIII and Stuart Roosa, and the works of great American painter Walter Anderson and potter George E. Ohr. And the places to see!—the beautiful home of Jefferson Davis, the beaches, the southern way of life, the unique nightlife, the Mardi Gras, the 1699 celebrations and re-enactments.

Madam President, I invite all my colleagues to come down to the Gulf Coast next year and join us in the wonderful celebration of our Tricentennial.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, February 10, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,471,889,906,215.21 (Five trillion, four hundred seventy-one billion, eight hundred eighty-nine million, nine hundred six thousand, two hundred fifteen dollars and twenty-one cents).

One year ago, February 10, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,302,292,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred two billion, two hundred ninety-two million).

Five years ago, February 10, 1993, the Federal debt stood at \$4,172,770,000,000 (Four trillion, one hundred seventy-two billion, seven hundred seventy million).

Ten years ago, February 10, 1988, the Federal debt stood at \$2,452,575,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred fifty-two billion, five hundred seventy-five million).

Fifteen years ago, February 10, 1983, the Federal debt stood at \$1,194,868,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred ninety-four billion, eight hundred sixty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,277,021,906,215.21 (Four trillion, two hundred seventy-seven billion, twenty-one million, nine hundred six thousand, two hundred fifteen dollars and twenty-one cents) during the past 15 years.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 1998

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to commend my colleagues for voting "no" this morning on the effort to shut down debate and take up S. 1601, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 1998 without hearings or the benefit of a comprehensive Committee review of the bill.

At the outset, I want to make it clear that I stand with the vast majority of Americans who oppose efforts to clone human beings. S. 1601, however, does much more than that. The bill includes a permanent ban on the act of

human somatic cell nuclear transfer, which means taking the nucleus—which contains DNA—from a mature cell and putting it into an egg cell from which the original nucleus has been removed. Although the bill defines the product of such a transfer as an embryo, it is not actually a fertilized egg, as that term is commonly understood. It is an unfertilized egg cell that contains DNA from another source. It is true that if this cell were implanted in a woman's womb, it could very well develop into a baby. However, the cell may also be grown in a laboratory to become skin, nerve, or muscle tissue.

Because of its ban on human somatic cell transfer, there is a strong likelihood that S. 1601 would extinguish biomedical research in several vital areas. Scientists are examining approaches to treating disease that won't depend on drugs, but on stem cells that can differentiate into brain, skin, blood, or heart cells. S. 1601 would put an end to such research whenever somatic cell nuclear transfer is involved. Thus, it would outlaw efforts to create cardiac muscle cells to treat heart attack victims and degenerative heart disease; skin cells to treat burn victims; spinal cord neuron cells for the treatment of spinal cord trauma and paralysis; neural cells to treat those suffering from Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, and Lou Gehrig's disease; blood cells to treat cancer anemia and immunodeficiencies; cells for use in genetic therapy to treat 5,000 genetic diseases, including cystic fibrosis, Tay-Sachs, schizophrenia, and depression; liver cells for the treatment of such diseases as hepatitis and cirrhosis; and myriad other cells for use in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of a multitude of serious and life-threatening medical conditions.

Consider the effect that S. 1601 would have on research related to the treatment of diabetes. A diabetes patient has a shortage of insulin-producing cells in her pancreas. Somatic cell nuclear transfer technology may allow for the transplantation of a large number of insulin-producing cells into the diabetic patient that would be genetically identical to her. As a result, rejection would not be an issue and the patient would be cured. S. 1601 would stifle research into this promising approach to the treatment of diabetes.

Moreover, S. 1601 would prevent doctors from utilizing certain treatments that already exist, such as an effective therapy for mitochondrial disease, which causes infertility in women.

In sum, too much is at stake to allow legitimate concerns over human cloning to quash the beneficial research and existing treatments associated with somatic cell nuclear transfer. Over 120 medical research, industry, and patient advocacy organizations have expressed the view that S. 1601 would do just that. That is why I am co-sponsor of Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator KENNEDY's substitute bill, S. 1602. This legislation, drafted with the

assistance of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC), the National Institutes of Health, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the Biotech Industry Association, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Food and Drug Administration, imposes a 10-year ban on the implantation of the product of somatic cell nuclear transfer into a woman's uterus. While it bans the cloning of human beings for 10 years, the bill does not prohibit the cloning of molecules, DNA, cells, tissues, or non-human animals. It therefore does not restrict important biomedical and agricultural research that will improve the quality of life for millions of Americans and save the lives of many more.

S. 1602 requires that in four-and-a-half years the NBAC prepare and submit a report on the state of the science of cloning; the ethical and social issues related to the potential use of this technology in human beings; and the wisdom of extending the prohibition. The bill also requires the President to seek cooperation with other countries to establish international restrictions similar to those it enumerates.

Madam President, S. 1601 was brought directly to the floor two days after it was introduced without a day of committee hearings or a markup. The Senate did the right thing today when it decided that such a far-reaching bill with so many implications for the future direction of scientific inquiry must be carefully considered in committee. I am confident that we will ultimately agree upon a bipartisan approach to dealing with the issues raised by cloning technology, one that ensures that life-saving medical research will not be threatened. Through its action today, the Senate has sent the message that it intends to give this complex matter the thoughtful and deliberative consideration it deserves.

Mr. HATCH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the resolution of the Senate of January 24, 1901, on Monday, February 23, 1998, immediately following the prayer and the disposition of the Journal, the traditional reading of the Washington's Farewell Address take place and that the Chair be authorized to appoint a Senator to perform this task.

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