

update about the fate of a little girl about whom I testified previously before the Senate Finance Committee.

In my testimony on October 8, 1997, I told the story of a little 2-year-old girl from Ventura County, CA, a little girl by the name of Joselin Hernandez. This poor little girl was beaten, bitten and slowly tortured to death by her parents. She first was taken into foster care when she was 6 weeks old, hospitalized with six fractured ribs, broken legs and burns to her hands and feet. She was also malnourished and dehydrated. The little girl, little Joselin, was placed at that time with her grandmother. But when her grandmother died, Joselin was returned to her parents, and 3 months later, as I testified before, she was dead.

Now, after a 6-week trial, Joselin's father has been convicted of first-degree murder and torture, and her mother of second-degree murder. The judge sentenced Joselin's father to life in prison. He will be eligible for parole in 42 years. The judge sentenced her mother to 15 years to life, and she will be eligible for parole in 13 years. The judge, after listening to the evidence, after listening to this horrible story, this horrible tragedy, told Joselin's father:

I have been in court with literally scores of people—some brutal, sadistic killers, but none of them were treated by society as Joselin was treated by her father.

Joselin's mother's attorney asked the judge to take into consideration the mother has lost two children—Joselin and a 3-year-old son who was placed in foster care. The judge replied, I think correctly:

She hasn't lost two children. She killed one and lost the other. And it seems the reason she did it was not a pretty one. She was getting what she needed, so it was acceptable. It was not unacceptable enough for her to lift a hand to make it end.

These killers have been brought to justice. We, as Americans, I don't think, can truly believe that justice has been done when any child has been left to the mercy of people like this. The bill that we passed—my colleague in the chair helped pass last year—to reform the foster care system in this country to help liberate children from abusive parents, is just the beginning, just the beginning of a strong struggle to reduce the number of lives lost in this kind of senseless tragedy.

We need to move children into safe, stable, loving and permanent homes. Just about a year ago, on April 30, 1997, I told the Senate about another little girl, and her story has a happier ending. This is a little Ohio girl. She was less than 4 months old when she was hospitalized in critical condition, suffering from shaken-baby syndrome. When she was released from the hospital she went to her first foster home. By the time this little girl was 4, she had been shuttled through eight separate foster homes in 4 short years of life.

By the time she finally got out of foster care, she became hysterical when-

ever she saw a full black garbage bag. Why? That's because that was the luggage that was used whenever she had to be moved from one foster home to another. They always put her belongings in a plastic garbage bag. She knew when she saw that that she was going to be moved again.

Last week this little Ohio girl finally got permanent adoptive parents. That is what she and every child in this country needs and deserves. I'm sure all my colleagues join me in wishing her well in her new home and her healing process. I'm sure all of my colleagues also join me in pledging that we will redouble our common efforts to help all of America's children find safe, stable, loving and permanent homes.

In short, and in conclusion, the bill that we passed last year is doing some good. It will continue to do good. But it is only the first step. As long as there are half a million children in this country, as there still are today, who are in foster care at any one given moment, as long as children are in some abusive homes, as long as we continue to lose children every week who are killed by their caregivers, this Senate and legislative bodies across this country must remain vigilant. We must continue to examine this issue. We must do all that we can to make sure that every child has what we all want for our own children, and that is a permanent and loving home.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-92, appoints John David Davenport, of Oklahoma, as a participant in the 1998 National Summit on Retirement Income Savings, to fill the existing vacancy thereon.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 10 minutes to speak as in morning business for a period not to exceed 15 minutes.

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

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1988 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, April 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,501,159,283,287.65 (Five trillion, five hundred and one billion, one hundred fifty-nine million, two hundred eighty-three thousand, two hundred eighty-seven dollars and sixty-five cents).

One year ago, April 23, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,345,089,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred forty-five billion, eighty-nine million).

Five years ago, April 23, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,230,203,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred thirty billion, two hundred three million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 23, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$454,924,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-four billion, nine hundred twenty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$ (Five trillion, forty-six billion, two hundred thirty-five million, two hundred eighty-three thousand, two hundred eighty-seven dollars and sixty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 17TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute's report for the week ending April 17, that the U.S. imported 9,503,000 barrels of oil each day, 1,519,000 more barrels than the 6,424,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relief on foreign oil for 59.6 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 9,503,000 barrels a day.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 24, 1998, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that House has passed the following, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1252. An act to modify the procedures of the Federal courts in certain matters, and for other purposes.