

have some explicit authority. But their budget already under our budget is increased significantly. Now, under this bill, we increase it 10 times more, \$34 million to \$340 million, a huge increase. We are expecting those people to gear up and utilize that money. It looks like we are forming an additional bureaucracy. I also want you to watch the dollars.

In Wyoming, for years we have been talking about increasing the price of the tax on cigarettes by 15 cents. When I was in the State legislature in Wyoming, we talked about that. We usually talked about putting that money to health needs. Even talking about putting it to the health needs, it raised approximately \$8 million a year. I have to focus on the difference here between billion and million. In the States, a million is a lot of money. Out here, a billion is not much. But that 15 cents a pack raises \$8 million. We are told that \$1.10 a pack will raise \$6 million. It doesn't sound like very good math. It sounds like the usual Washington program where it comes back here, we keep a bunch of it, and we send a little bit back. If that is the case, the State would do it better. It would have more money for the States.

I am going to mention two final concerns that I have on this. When we passed the budget bill, we talked about the need to help Medicare with money that came from the tobacco. That is what we were going to do with all of the money from the tobacco settlement—put it into Medicare, shore that up. It is in bad financial shape. That would give us some more time to work on it. There is very little provision in this bill for doing anything for Medicare. We should take care of Medicare. That would be a medical use for the money. That would be money that non-smokers have been paying in to pay for smokers' problems that increase the cost of Medicare.

The final need that we have to have in the bill is a provision where we don't spend the money until we have the money. It disturbs me a lot that we are talking about putting an industry out of business but relying on ever-increasing revenues from this business going out of business. Somehow the basic counting instincts here just do not balance. We really have to be sure that the money gets collected before it gets spent if we are going to decrease the revenues.

So there are a lot of concerns there.

I hope my colleagues will go home to their States and discuss with the people there the complexities of this bill. I don't know that there has been that complex a bill before. We are not going to probably break it down into six separate bills. So there will be a long debate on it when we get back. Share your ideas. Share your concerns. And we will get with that when we come back.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, May 21, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,503,780,049,716.42 (Five trillion, five hundred three billion, seven hundred eighty million, forty-nine thousand, seven hundred sixteen dollars and forty-two cents).

One year ago, May 21, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,348,058,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred forty-eight billion, fifty-eight million).

Five years ago, May 21, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,287,850,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-seven billion, eight hundred fifty million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 21, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$453,228,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-three billion, two hundred twenty-eight million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,050,552,049,716.42 (Five trillion, fifty billion, five hundred fifty-two million, forty-nine thousand, seven hundred sixteen dollars and forty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF RED CROSS BLOOD COLLECTING

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, as the United States fought World War II, Americans mobilized in support of the war effort like they never had before. Everyone was trying to find a way to help our troops battle the Axis and keep the world free and safe. Whether it was children flattening and saving tin cans that were used for scrap metal, or people growing fruits and vegetables in "Victory Gardens", everyone tried to find a way to make their own contribution to winning the war and supporting our men and women in uniform.

It was at this time that the American Red Cross took on the responsibility of collecting blood that would ultimately be used to help save the lives of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Army Air Corpsmen wounded in action. The efforts of the Red Cross were truly a success as they helped to reduce the death rate among the wounded by fifty percent.

For the past fifty years, the American Red Cross has been responsible for administering the Nation's blood supplies and they have done a commendable job in ensuring that the United States has a ready and ample reserve of blood for those who need it. Just a few days ago, on April 30th, American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole helped to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of that organization's Biomedical Services. Her remarks nicely illustrate the contributions and accomplishments of the Red Cross in administering the Nation's blood supply. I think that my colleagues and the public would be interested to read what Mrs. Dole had to say and I ask unanimous consent that her remarks be printed in the RECORD.

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

REMARKS OF ELIZABETH DOLE

Thank you, Paul, for that kind introduction and ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much. And special thanks to Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and David Kessler, Dean of the Yale Medical School and former Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. We are delighted you could be with us today as we mark the 50th anniversary of the most important of our national reserves: America's reserve of life, the American blood supply. Thank you, Donna and David, for your continued leadership, and for your steadfast dedication to the safety and quality of American health.

Aren't we thrilled to have Garth Brooks here. Garth, you have a magical hold on the spirit of our people. What a joy it is that you would share that bond with us. We are enormously grateful.

What a day! We are also so very pleased to be joined by the Oak Ridge Boys! Boys, your music puts the party in the birthday, and we thank you.

Also, many thanks to the other wonderful celebrities with us today—Lynda Carter, KENNEDY, and William Moses. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in joining us to celebrate our 50th birthday of Biomedical Services. And, welcome to Councilwoman Charlene Drew Jarvis, the daughter of Dr. Charles Drew, renowned plasma pioneer for the American Red Cross and leading authority on transfusion. The Charles Drew Institute honors his memory. Thank you, Charlene, for your support over the years.

As we observe this 50th anniversary, of American Red Cross Blood services, it's a time to take satisfaction in our past and pride in where we've been. The Red Cross started collecting blood during World War II in order to save soldiers' lives, and our efforts were credited with reducing the death rate among these soldiers to half that of their World War I counterparts. When peace came, we created America's first nationwide, volunteer blood collection and distribution system, assuring all our citizens access to one of the great medical advances of this century.

But health events in the last two decades rocked us to our very foundations. The age of blood-borne diseases such as AIDS and new forms of hepatitis swooped down on us with a vengeance. We knew we could no longer operate at the Red Cross as we had done for so many years. Which is why this year, our 50th anniversary, is a year to look forward, rather than back. Today I take great joy in announcing an historic achievement:

As the year closes, the American Red Cross will celebrate the completion of our nearly seven-year, \$287 million dollar transformation of our blood operations. This long-awaited milestone is the reason I stand here with so much confidence—and hope—for the future. The accomplishment of Transformation is a great, triumphant victory in our common endeavor to expand what is possible in health care.

And I'm also pleased to announce today that, following this speech, I am leaving on a nation-wide tour of blood drives and celebrity events to focus attention on the safety revolution in America's blood supply. Many of our citizens are still frightened of transfusions, and they should not be! Many millions still mistrust those red bags of life, and they must not! We have achieved a new American miracle in blood, and I will take that message across America. We will celebrate and we will educate but first, let me ruminate.

When I came to the Red Cross in February 1991, the legal and financial vulnerabilities of our blood operations threatened the very