

assembled in Africa or the Caribbean or being shipped to these countries from elsewhere. Then, under the bill, they can add another \$3 billion to their current agreements with the United States.

Mr. President, these illegalities certainly won't benefit American textile companies—and it's hard to see how it does much for the African and Caribbean nations that this bill is ostensibly designed to help. Instead, it merely allows already-established Asian companies to use these nations as simple fronts for their own business. I certainly hope that's not what the Senate has in mind.

Mr. President, in my view, the decimation of one of America's most important industries is absolutely unacceptable. I do not quarrel with the contention that economic development in Africa and the Caribbean is an important objective and ultimately in America's best interest. Yet I fail to see why we must sacrifice an entire domestic industry to this international goal.

Sadly enough, the Senate is now poised to do just that. I am realistic enough to know the ultimate outcome of this debate. But I would be remiss in my duty as a Senator from North Carolina—and as an American—if I did not take a stand on behalf of the many thousands of workers who have paid—and will continue to pay—the price for a U.S. trade policy willing to countenance the destruction of the textile industry and the communities it supports.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. I thank the Chair. (The remarks of Mr. BROWNBACK pertaining to the introduction of S. 2540 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

FIGHTING NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to call the attention of the Senate to neurofibromatosis, or NF, a cruel neurological disorder that affects so many of our citizens. In the past, groups who come together to fight NF have asked Congress to designate May as "World Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month." This year, they are directing their energies to more substantive issues. I commend NF Inc. and other advocates across the nation for their leadership and their strong commitment to this cause.

NF is a genetic disorder of the nervous system that can cause tumors on

nerves anywhere in the body at any time. It is a progressive disorder that affects all ethnic groups and both sexes equally. It is one of the most common genetic disorders in the United States—affecting one in every 4,000 births.

There are two genetically distinct forms of this disorder—NF-1 and NF-2. The effects are unpredictable and have varying manifestations and degrees of severity.

NF-1 is the more common type, occurring in about 1 in 4,000 people in the United States. Symptoms include five or more light brown skin spots known as cafe-au-lait macules, as well as tumors that can grow on the eyes or spine. In most cases, the symptoms are mild and people can live normal and productive lives. In some cases, however, NF-1 can be severely debilitating.

NF-2 is less common, affecting about 1 in 40,000 people, and much more severe. Tumors grow near the auditory nerve and often cause pressure on other nerves in the head and the body. Tumors also grow on the spine, and attack the central nervous system. People with NF-2 often experience deafness, frequent headaches and facial pain, facial paralysis, cataracts, and difficulty with balance.

There is no known cure for either form of the disorder, even though the genes for both NF-1 and NF-2 have been identified. Currently, NF has no treatment, other than the surgical removal of tumors, which sometimes grow back.

The disorder is not infectious. Only half of those affected with it have a prior family history of NF. If someone does not have NF, they cannot pass it on to their children.

Talented researchers across the country are making impressive strides in finding a cure for this serious disorder. Thanks in great part to the research sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at NIH, scientists have already identified the two genes that cause NF, and significant progress in developing new treatments is being made.

Much of the cutting-edge research on NF is being performed at the NF Clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, which was founded in 1982 by Dr. Robert Martuza. It was one of the first clinics to recognize the unique multi-disciplinary problems that NF patients and their families face—and the vital role that a dedicated clinic plays in the research community. The McLain Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts also has a vital role in supporting important research, particularly for NF-2.

One of the most difficult aspects of having NF, or caring for a patient with NF, is not knowing what the future will bring. Our lack of knowledge about the cause of the tumors associated with the disorder also makes the evaluation of potential therapies difficult. In association with Children's Hospital of Boston and the House Ear Institute

in Los Angeles, the NF Clinic at MGH is participating in an international study to define the types of tumors most commonly associated with NF.

Congress has a responsibility to provide these dedicated medical professionals and researchers with the resources and support necessary to continue their lifesaving work. President Clinton has asked for increased funding to fight this disorder and many other neurological illnesses.

We must also ensure that a person's genetic information cannot be used as a basis for discrimination. To receive appropriate care for NF, patients must have access to genetic tests, free from the concern that the results of those tests will be used to discriminate against them in any way.

I commend the dedicated researchers and physicians across the country for their commitment to this important issue, and I commend advocates like NF Inc. for their leadership. I look forward to rapid progress in the years ahead, and I am confident that Congress and the Administration will do as much as possible to support their all-important efforts. Together, we can cure NF.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 9, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,662,962,880,861.72 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty-two billion, nine hundred sixty-two million, eight hundred eighty thousand, eight hundred sixty-one dollars and seventy-two cents).

Five years ago, May 9, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,853,700,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred fifty-three billion, seven hundred million).

Ten years ago, May 9, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,075,888,000,000 (Three trillion, seventy-five billion, eight hundred eighty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, May 9, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,741,509,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred forty-one billion, five hundred nine million).

Twenty-five years ago, May 9, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$515,471,000,000 (Five hundred fifteen billion, four hundred seventy-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,147,491,880,861.72 (Five trillion, one hundred forty-seven billion, four hundred ninety-one million, eight hundred eighty thousand, eight hundred sixty-one dollars and seventy-two cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

A TRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT SAMUEL H. SMITH

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the long and exemplary service of Washington State University (WSU) President Samuel H. Smith and his wife Pat Smith.