

groceries, perhaps, to pick up on the way home or some other domestic chore. After carefully writing down her instructions, he would turn to his visitor and resume the meeting.

John Pastore was the Chairman of the Communications Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee. He was instrumental in the formation of legislation that created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Public Broadcasting Service. John Pastore was opposed to violence on television and, especially, in children's programming. The deterioration of TV programming to what it is today must have been upsetting to him.

John Pastore's commitment to God, to competence, and to compassion, set a high standard. He used these commitments, I believe, to promote justice and peace. He was so very proud that his son John, Jr., who served as secretary of the Boston-based International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

So on Wednesday, I took the opportunity along with my illustrious colleagues whom I have named, to extend, on behalf of the Senate, my sympathy and prayers to John's wife, Elena, his son, John, Jr., and his daughters, Francesca and Louise.

What a great outpouring that was on Wednesday—a huge church auditorium, and a great crowd. What a wonderful family.

I was so very impressed with Mrs. Pastore, by her grace and poise, and with the two daughters and with that son, John Jr., the physician, which John himself had wanted to be.

I close with words by John Donne:

DEATH BE NOT PROUD

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;  
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,  
Die not, poor Death; nor yet canst thou kill me,  
From Rest and Sleep, which but they picture be,  
Much pleasure, then from thee much more must flow;  
And soonest our best men with thee do go—  
Rest of their bones and souls' delivery!  
Thou'rt slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,  
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell;  
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well  
And better than thy stroke. Why swell'st thou then?  
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
And Death shall be no more: Death, thou shalt die!

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for about 10 minutes.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wanted to thank the distinguished senior Senator from West Virginia for those very inspirational remarks.

He always amazes me, not only with his knowledge of history, but his knowledge of verse, his knowledge of literature, and, of course, his knowledge for the rules of the Senate.

I want to personally thank him for those very stirring words.

BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM OFFER  
OF FREE NEVIRAPINE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, in May I stood on this floor and castigated the pharmaceutical industry for going behind the scenes and killing an amendment that Senator FEINGOLD and I had introduced, and which was part of the African trade bill. They killed this amendment in conference.

This amendment essentially would have allowed countries in the midst of a national HIV/AIDS emergency to use the cheapest possible drugs to fight that national health emergency by allowing the country to distribute the drugs through "parallel importing" and "compulsory licensing."

Fortunately, the President put forward an Executive order to carry out the intent of our amendment.

Since that time, some substantial things have happened.

Because I was so critical of the industry I feel it is only fitting that I always come to the floor and acknowledge those that have responded to the crisis.

When Senator FEINGOLD and I began this fight last fall, 6 months after the World Health Organization declared HIV/AIDS the most deadly infectious disease in the world, very few people were aware at the time of the scope of the devastation as a result of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

Today, things have changed. Virtually not a day goes by without the media running a story about the HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. I will not recapitulate today all of the horrifying numbers behind this AIDS crisis. It suffices to say that more than 22 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, including over 30 percent of the adult population in many of the countries in the region. AIDS kills more than 2 million people a year in sub-Saharan Africa.

The media, the public, and governments from around the world are now increasingly aware of the catastrophe that is unfolding on this continent. Of course, the pharmaceutical community is also aware.

Today, I will discuss some of the positive steps the pharmaceutical industry is now taking to address this issue. I am very pleased and very grateful to see that the industry now recognizes its moral obligation and appears to be stepping up to the plate and taking the initiative to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa

and other flashpoints throughout the developing world.

On July 7, Boehringer Ingelheim announced that Nevirapine will be offered free of charge for a period of 5 years for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in developing countries. They actually said that any country that asks for the drug will obtain it for free. That is a huge step forward. Reducing mother-to-child transmission can literally save millions of lives and reduce the rate of increase of HIV/AIDS in the developing world. In South Africa alone, according to a study published in the *Lancet* on June 17, as many as 110,000 cases of HIV in infants could be prevented over the next 5 years if all pregnant women in South Africa take a short course of antiretroviral medication such as Nevirapine during labor.

Today, I believe there are literally millions of orphans in Africa, orphans whose mothers, fathers, and families have died of AIDS, orphans who are living without food, without water. It is a devastating situation. The initiative by Boehringer Ingelheim is part of the collaborative effort between the United Nations, the World Bank, and five pharmaceutical companies. I salute them today. Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Glaxo-Wellcome, Merck, and Hoffman-La Roche are now trying, together, to expand access to HIV/AIDS treatment in the developing world. They deserve to be saluted by this body.

If efforts by the international community to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions of the developing world are to be successful, they must be part of a coordinated effort, and that effort has to include education, prevention, and adequate health care infrastructure. They must also include access to affordable medication. This is where participation by the pharmaceutical industry is so essential.

I am pleased to see that at long last pharmaceutical companies have recognized they have a profound social responsibility and moral obligation to meet the HIV/AIDS crisis, and that the lifesaving drugs they can provide are essential. We all know that AIDS drugs are extraordinarily costly. Therefore, access to low cost or generic drugs becomes critical.

It is important, however, to sound a note of caution and place the initiatives of these pharmaceutical companies in perspective. According to Doctors' Without Borders, for example, past experience with the proposed Pfizer fluconazole donation shows that these programs sometimes come with conditions for national health ministries that make them unsustainable over the long term. Many of these conditions are worthy. For example, it is worthy that the drug companies actually try to prevent the distribution of these drugs on the black market, and I understand the requirement that these drugs only be dispensed by a physician.