

of service. Federal hours of service regulations are the primary protection for the traveling public against truck drivers being forced to drive excessive hours in a fatigued condition. The Senate Commerce Committee has sole jurisdiction over hours of service and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee not only didn't ask for our input in the issue, but surreptitiously snuck it into the bill.

As a conferee on the legislation I find this action reprehensible. As the Chairman of the Commerce Committee I find action inexcusable. And I assure my colleagues that this Senator will not let this action stand and I pledge that I will do all that I can to have this provision stripped from the legislation.

Mr. President, this conference report is a sham. The so-called Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century is a fraud. We should not fool taxpayers into believing that this legislation is anything more than a raid on gasoline tax dollars at the expense of veterans benefits. I urge my colleagues to vote against the conference report.

DRUG ABUSE AND ADDICTION

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, when we return a week from Monday, from the Memorial Day recess, we will revisit the tobacco debate, and at that point I, along with my colleague from Idaho, Mr. CRAIG, and my colleague from Michigan, Mr. ABRAHAM, will offer an amendment to the tobacco bill that would create a new section. The section we will be offering as suggested additional legislation for the tobacco bill will be a section on drug abuse and addiction.

Mr. President, to me it is illogical—and I have been puzzled throughout the debate—that we would be talking about teenage addiction in the context of tobacco only. It is not good policy to talk about teenage addiction and leave out the single, most important crisis that teenagers face today, which is drug addiction, drug abuse, and the swirling epidemic that has engulfed our Nation. If we are going to talk about addiction, we must include a component that deals with the Nation's No. 1 teenage problem.

Mr. President, in the last 7 years teenage drug abuse has increased by 135 percent—135 percent. Tobacco usage has increased as well—40 percent. That is significant, and we must attack that but not by being silent on a new drug epidemic in the United States. In 1979, 14.1 percent of the population age 12 to 17 were involved in drug use—that is 3.3 million. The Nation got serious and it said we cannot accept this. And by the year 1992, drug use had been driven down by two-thirds, from 14.1 percent down to 5.3 percent. This is important on a couple of points. First, it demonstrates to the Nation that you can do something about this. There are many in our community who would argue, well, we have just been fighting this forever and it doesn't do any good. That is totally wrong.

We have demonstrated as a Nation if we get focused on this problem, pay attention to it, and if we do the right things, we will keep people from being entrapped by drug use. We went from 14.1 percent down to 5.3 percent. In other words, instead of 3.3 million children getting caught up in this, we have taken it down to 1 million—a two-thirds reduction. And then we got lazy. We quit talking about it. We made light of it. The interdiction was reduced. The drug czar's office was closed, for all practical purposes. We mothballed Coast Guard ships in the Caribbean. We turned our back on this problem. And what happened? Well, we should not be surprised. We are moving right back to 1979. You quit talking about it, you reduce the effort on the border, you shrink up the resources, and our youngsters get the idea that it is not dangerous. In the meantime, the cartels have become ever more sophisticated, generating ever more resources. They have as good a distribution system in this country as some of our most famous brands.

At a hearing recently, we had representation from Customs, from the Justice Department, and from the FBI. I asked them at the end of the hearing, "How recently have you been to a school?" Well, none of them had been recently. I said, "You ought to do it." Mr. President, if you want to know what is going on, go into any school and 12-years-olds can tell you the whole story. They can tell you how few minutes it takes to buy them. They can tell you that they are prevalent everywhere. They can tell you the name brands of all of them. And when you ask them what the most serious problem is, a few will hold up their hands on various issues—alcohol, cigarettes—but they all hold up their hands in unison when you say, "Are drugs the most serious problem you face?" All the hands go up. I challenge anybody to do it. They will get the same answer.

Those kids, I think, are wondering what we are doing about it, what is this Nation doing about it? It is time for a bold response. And throughout this entire debate, there has been silence on this massive problem. One in four students in high school today in the United States is using drugs regularly. One in nine in junior high is using drugs regularly. Eight out of ten prisoners in any jail in America, anywhere in America, are there on a drug-related charge—direct or indirect. This is fueling crime in our country, with enormous cost consequences, and we are taking millions of casualties. If this evil force wore a uniform, we would have declared war on it.

What else would take down a million kids—a million, and it is increasing—that would produce 100,000 crack babies every year and thousands of deaths—14,000 a year?

The silence has been deafening, just deafening. We have been in a struggle with the administration over this, asking them to step forward. We are fi-

nally just moving on our own. The plan that they have given us says we are going to have an accountability period in the year 2006. The first measurement would occur in 2002. That is 2 years into the next Presidency. We need to be aggressive now. My colleague, in a moment, will describe in his 10-minute period the bold response.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, why have we spent the last 3 days on the floor talking about tobacco? Nearly everyone who has come to the floor to talk about tobacco has said we have to get it out of the hands of teenagers. There are two reasons we are on the floor talking about tobacco. First of all, it is darn good politics, and, secondly, we are mad at the tobacco companies and we are going to act in a very punitive fashion because they lied to us. They withheld information as to the addictiveness of nicotine, and we are angry as a public, angry as a governing body. We are going to inflict upon them a very punitive action, and we are going to do it in the name of teenagers—thousands of young people every day picking up a cigarette.

I am not belittling it, I am recognizing it. We need to try to get tobacco and the substance within it, nicotine, out of the hands of our teenagers. But thousands of teenagers today who start smoking today will not die tomorrow. Let me repeat that. The thousands of teenagers that we are all talking about—and, boy, have we heard it on the floor in the last few days—who pick up a cigarette today will not die tomorrow.

Mr. President, young people who engage in the use of drugs can die tomorrow. As my colleague from Georgia said, thousands are dying each year in violent actions and crimes related to drug use and drug associations. Yet, we stand silently by. The administration dropped the ball and walked away, and, finally, my colleague from Georgia rose up and said, wait a moment here, what in the heck are we doing as a country and as a policymaking body? If we are going to do all these great things for kids to get the cigarette out of their hand, why in the heck don't we get crack cocaine, marijuana, and amphetamines out of their hands because it kills them—not 30 years down the road.

By the way, if you start smoking today, you have a chance to live, because you can quit down the road. But if you start crack cocaine today, you will probably die on the street in a month or two for one reason or another, because you are stealing the money to get the crap that is called crack, or you are shot in some transaction that went bad.

That is how teenagers in America are dying today. The statistics that were just given by my colleague from Georgia about seventh graders and eighth

graders is real. I have done the same thing that PAUL COVERDELL has done. I have gone to the schools of Idaho. I go to them regularly anyway. I spend a lot of time talking with teenagers, kids, and when I ask the question, "What is your problem?" the hands go up with drugs. Most of the hands go up.

The Senator from Georgia is right. They know who sells it, and where you can get them. If they had a brand name on them, they would know the brand. Most importantly, if they had a brand name on them and they were being trafficked in the market today, we would be here going after the companies that were selling them because it would be killing our kids.

But today we are angry. We are mad. We are going to be vindictive. We are after the tobacco companies. We are after their big money to fuel big government. I am not going to vote for a big tobacco bill. I am going to vote to get cigarettes out of the hands of teenagers. It is the right thing to do.

But if we stand silently by and let what is described by my colleague from Georgia as the most significant epidemic amongst our youngsters go unspoken to and uncorrected, then we have erred grievously; we have erred grievously as policymakers.

New polls are out. When you ask parents what they are worried about, here is what they say: Thirty-nine percent, using illegal drugs. Thirty-nine percent of the American public say that is the No. 1 problem. Sixteen percent say joining a gang. Nine percent say drinking alcohol. Why? You get drunk, you get in the car, and you kill somebody, and you kill yourself.

Why then are we on the floor to spend weeks and millions of dollars trying to reach out and get billions of dollars out of tobacco? I will tell you why. Because it is good politics. Yet only 3 percent of the American people say they worry about it when they worry about their kids.

It is time we speak out. That is what my colleague from Georgia, my colleague from Michigan, and I are doing. We will have an amendment on the tobacco bill that will deal with this issue, or there will be no tobacco bill.

We must wake up the White House, wake up our Government, and wake up this policy body to what we are about to do. Here is what we want to do. We want to attach legislation that deals with this issue in a most significant way targeting three primary areas: Attacking the supply of drugs by strengthening our ability to stop them at the border; pull the mothballed Coast Guard fleet out and put it back in the water. Bill Clinton put it there. The heck with Bill Clinton. Put the money back in. Get them out in the water, and stop by interdiction. That is what our amendment does.

Second, we want to provide additional resources to fight drugs that reach our neighborhoods. Give the tools to the law enforcement communities and the schools and the commu-

nities at large to join together to block grant and create their own initiative along with our directed initiatives to get at the problem at the local level.

Then the third thing is to create disincentives for teen use of illegal drugs.

Those are the three major areas that will be involved in what we are about to do. We are going to spend a lot of time on the floor week after next until this proposal, this amendment, is part of the overall bill that will move, I believe, out of here.

So what do we have to do? When it comes to the supply side, we have to go straight at it. We have to deal with interdiction. We have to strengthen the borders. We have to stop slashing Coast Guard budgets and put some money back in it.

We talked about a 53-percent decline from 1992 to 1995 in the ability of the Coast Guard to reach out and interdict. That simply has to stop. Our amendment does exactly that.

Our amendment also includes the Border-Free Drug Act, which attacks 70 percent of the illegal drugs that enter the United States across the United States-Mexican border—70 percent of the drugs that are killing our kids on the street today, not 20 years down the road—today coming across the border from Mexico to the United States.

So why not put more people on the borders? I think we ought to. We ought to strengthen the Immigration and Naturalization Service to hire Border Patrol agents to deal with the trafficking and get at the business of going at it. For example, our amendment increases the resources available to DEA and the FBI.

An additional section of our amendment is the Money Laundering Prevention Act.

Finally, last week this administration announced a major break in drug laundering with Mexican banks. We have arrested a few people. And we are trying to get the cooperation of the Mexican Government now because the money is big. How big? We are trying to get \$800 billion away from the tobacco companies to spend on big government and some advertising that we think will convince our teenagers to quit smoking. But \$100 billion a year in the drug business kills thousands of teenagers. And we have not spoken to that. Why don't we go after that? I hope we can. We should. That is our goal.

While we deal with it in a national and an international way, we have to turn to our parents and we have to turn to our communities. The kids know who the drug dealers are. We ought to start asking them and involving them a little bit and recognizing the importance of that. We do that. We go after the demand side along with the supply side.

I think the Clinton administration's green light to subsidize needle exchange and programs like that doesn't make a lot of sense. That is an encouragement. We want to stop that.

Our legislation is comprehensive. The amendment that we will talk about over the recess and will offer as soon as we get back is going to be critical. Pieces of what we are doing have already passed the Congress in one way or another.

We want to bring them together to create the focus to do the same thing against drugs as we have done against alcohol. You get caught as a teenage drunk driver you lose your driver's license. You get caught using drugs as a teenager you drive on. We will encourage the States to take the driver's license away.

Let me say in closing, Mr. President, that if we are really worried about kids, yes, I agree. Let's get the cigarettes out of their hands. But let's stop them from their access to drugs of all forms. It kills them tomorrow. It killed thousands last year. It will kill thousands this year. As a policy-making body, we would be remiss not to deal with this issue now and force this administration to get out of their sleepwalk and deal with the issue in cooperation with us.

I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). The Senator from Wyoming, under the previous order, is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator yield?

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield so I might ask a question?

Mr. ENZI. Yes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding of the unanimous consent request made by Senator COVERDELL was that he wants to get two on the majority side to use 10 minutes each. And we thought that was acceptable. Senator ENZI wanted to introduce a bill. I now understand that Senator ENZI wishes to consume up to 10 minutes. The difficulty with that is I must be somewhere downtown at 10:30. If I had understood that Senator COVERDELL was seeking 30 minutes on that side before anyone was recognized, I would have had a different view, although I recognize that Senator ENZI came, in fact, before the previous two speakers this morning. I understand that. But we did it as a matter of courtesy to say it was acceptable to us to have two Republican speakers to go for 10 minutes each provided we then be recognized. The Senator from Wyoming, I understand, wants to introduce a bill.

Does the Senator from Wyoming intend to consume up to 10 minutes?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, my request was both on behalf of myself and Senator BINGAMAN. I don't see Senator BINGAMAN. So we can do it in considerably less time than that providing, of course, that the unanimous consent is that all of our statements be in the RECORD. But I would like to make a

few comments on something that is important to worker safety in this country. That is why I asked it to be in that order.

Mr. DORGAN. I think there has been a misunderstanding. I will, as matter of courtesy, not object. But I would have objected earlier if the request was that we had 30 minutes on the majority side uninterrupted, because Senator WELLSTONE is here and I was here. The Senator from Wyoming, I know, was here as well before the other speakers. As a matter of courtesy I will not object. I regret that there has been a misunderstanding.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for the purpose of a unanimous consent?

Mr. ENZI. Yes.

Ms. SNOWE. I thank the Senator from Wyoming.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to extend morning business for 10 minutes following the current order.

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

Morning business will be extended for 10 minutes. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. ENZI and Mr. KENNEDY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2112 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wyoming for his courtesy. I appreciated his statement as well.

Mr. President, the Senator from Hawaii has asked that he be given unanimous consent to follow the presentation by Senator SNOWE.

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

CHALLENGES FOR THIS COUNTRY: THE TRADE DEFICIT AND MERGERS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to talk about two challenges as we begin a break, now, for the Memorial Day recess here in Congress. We are talking about a wide range of things: Iran, missile sanctions, tobacco, appropriations bills, and a wide range of subjects. There are two subjects on which there is deafening silence here in Washington, DC, and in the Congress, and I want to talk about both of them because I think both are challenges for this country. One is our worsening trade deficit and the announcement 2 days ago that, once again, our merchandise trade deficit for 1 month reached another record \$20 billion in a month; and, second, the new wave of mergers in this country. I want to talk about both of them just briefly.

First, a chart. This chart shows in recent years the average monthly trade deficit in this country, the average monthly merchandise trade deficit. You can see what is happening—a month in 1991, \$6 billion; it is now 1998, \$20 billion, February through March, in a month. Some say the trade deficit doesn't matter much. If it doesn't matter much, they must be just ecstatic. If ignorance is bliss, those who think trade deficits don't matter have to be just ecstatic. Look at what is happening here. This red represents a flood of red ink in international trade.

Our all-stars in international trade are our farmers. Yet, farm imports into this country are going up and farm exports are going down. I think today there is a ship docking in California with a load of barley from the European Union. It is going to dock in Stockton, CA. It has feed barley being sent into this country with a \$1.10-a-bushel subsidy. Shame on us for letting that ship dock. That is unfair trade no matter how you describe it, and it undercuts our producers, undercuts our farmers, takes money right out of American producers' pockets, and it doesn't seem to matter much to anyone. It just seems the trade deficits are OK, there are not problems, and nobody seems to want to do much about it.

That unfair trade on that boat is just one small example. The flood of grain coming in from Canada, unfairly subsidized grain, in my judgment, being illegally dumped in this country—nothing is done about that.

How about the closed markets, yes, in Japan and China? Take a look at the figures this week and see what is happening with China. There is a \$12 billion trade deficit in the first 3 months, \$12 billion the first 3 months with China. That is a \$48 billion, nearly \$50 billion yearly trade deficit with China. Mr. President, \$15 billion the first 3 months with Japan, that is a \$60 billion a year trade deficit with Japan. This doesn't make any sense. This hurts our country. Trade deficits must be repaid. It is not free money. And it must be repaid in the future by a lower standard of living in this country.

That is not a theory. That is real. These deficits must be repaid, and those who react with glee to this do not understand what this means. It means we are borrowing, and borrowing heavily, for a trade system that is out of balance.

With all due respect to all those who negotiate our trade agreements, I will say this: Will Rogers once said the United States has never lost a war and never won a conference.

Why do we send trade negotiators overseas to lose in 3 weeks? And they do. I can't think of a trade agreement negotiated recently that represented this country's national economic interest. We have incompetently negotiated trade agreements and trade agreements that are rarely enforced, and it is time for this country and this Congress to

understand this is heading in the wrong direction.

I am not suggesting cutting off all imports. I am saying to our trading partners, as a country it is in our economic interest that when we take your goods, you be required to take ours. We need to get more wheat into China, more pork into China, more manufactured goods into China and Japan, more beef into Japan.

I can spend an hour talking about these problems. Nobody works much on them, because trade policy too often has become foreign policy, and the State Department has its mitts in all of this. It worries that if we get tough with Japan and say, "You can't run a \$60 billion trade surplus with us every year," Japan will be miffed. Well, let Japan be miffed. Let's talk about this country's interests. Let's talk about our long-term interests.

Having gotten that off my chest, I hope the deafening silence on trade deficits will no longer continue. I hope this Congress, in the coming months, will consider the legislation that I, Senator BYRD, and Senator STEVENS have introduced which talks about the creation of a commission on an emergency basis to make recommendations to Congress to deal with this trade deficit, to focus on it and respond to it.

Mr. President, I have one final item, and that is the wave of mergers in this country. In the last century, there have been five merger waves. We are in the fifth. This is far, far in excess of any mergers in the past.

I want you to take a look at the line on this chart, going back to 1983, on the number of merger deals, and it goes up like this, as you can see. The projected dollar amount on mergers and acquisitions is up to \$1.1 trillion for this year.

What does all this mean? Are mergers always bad? No. Can you get into a merger wave that strangles our marketplace? Of course you can, and that is what is happening in this country.

I want to go through some of the mergers. Some of these companies decided to get married, and we didn't even know they were dating. All these secret talks were going on, and two companies were so fond of each other that they decided to get married. We have Citicorp and Travelers Group at more than \$70 billion. They were romancing for a couple of weeks and announced to all of us, a huge bank and a huge insurance company want to get hitched.

BankAmerica Corp., NationsBank, that is not surprising. We have banks throughout this list. The big banks are getting bigger. Down at the Federal Reserve Board, they have a list. It used to be a list of 11 banks. It is called "Too Big to Fail." It means these banks will not fail because we cannot let them fail; the consequences to our country and economy will be too significant.

That list now is not 11, it is now 21 banks and growing. Twenty-one banks