

Joe Classics Collection. The action figure will honor the Japanese Americans who fought valiantly for our country during World War II.

My colleagues will recall that as members of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, Japanese American soldiers suffered unparalleled casualties in the French and Italian campaigns. Many veterans today still recall the heroism of this fighting unit, which during one famous engagement sustained 800 casualties to save the lives of some 200 members of a Texas battalion who were facing certain annihilation by German troops. The 442nd emerged as one of the most decorated units in our nation's military history, among its more famous members is Senator DANIEL INOUE, whose heroism earned him the Distinguished Service Cross.

Aside from their military prowess, what was even more remarkable about these brave men was the fact that they were fighting for a country which was, in essence, holding their families hostage in internment camps. One of the darkest chapters of our nation's history was the forced evacuation of over 110,000 Japanese Americans into internment camps.

And so I am very pleased that a toy company, which markets to our most important community, our children, has dispensed with typical marketing values to honor America's home-grown Asian Pacific American heroes. For ultimately, only change in our cultural values will have transformational effect on race and ethnic relations as we approach the next millennium.

Mr. President, I am Native Hawaiian and I am Chinese, but above all I am American. I have embraced all of my identities and hope that others can learn to embrace and cherish our inherent diversity. It is my sincere hope that as we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, each and every citizen will reflect on our nation's multiple heritages and appreciate the relationship between our racial and ethnic diversity and the unity that binds us together as Americans.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming, Mr. ENZI, is recognized.

THE SENATE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I appreciate the honor of closing up today and sending everyone on their way back to their homes with the joyous news that there is highway money. I go back to Wyoming almost every weekend and travel 1,200 miles across Wyoming's vast open spaces, and we will appreciate that highway money. It truly has been a landmark achievement. I want to congratulate the senior Senator from Wyoming, Senator THOMAS, for his outstanding efforts on that bill. He did some early drafting and formulas

that have helped tremendously in this. I have also appreciated his guidance since I have been here. Now we are heading back to our respective States.

THE TOBACCO LEGISLATION

The other thing that we have done this week is spend some time debating the tobacco settlement, debating how we can get teens to quit smoking, debating how we can solve the problems of tobacco. I hope that all Senators go back to their States and talk about this landmark piece of legislation that is before us—landmark in that it will be the largest tax increase in my memory, a tax increase that will be placed on a separate segment of the people.

I am going to stop right here and mention that I have not taken any money from the tobacco companies. When I was campaigning, I desperately needed some funds, but I didn't feel that it was right to do that. My comments are not based on that. It is concern out of what we debated this last week, the constitutionality of whether we have the right to solve this problem in this body for every person in the Nation, whether we can set that kind of a precedent. I am sure that if people have been watching, they have been a little confused about the amount of time it has taken to debate it. I want to assure them that it will take considerably more time to debate this issue. This would probably be more appropriate in six bills, coming from six different committees. It was tried that way, and it was determined that it needed to be in one bill. Each of those bills would require as much debate as we had this week.

We are going from a premise that these companies need to be punished. Lately, documents have shown that they have withheld information from their consumers—the people using the product—that shows that nicotine is definitely addictive, that it does affect their health, that it is going to hurt them. Consequently, there is a desire across this Nation to punish those companies. But as several of my constituents who smoke have said, "Let's see, they abused my body for years, and now you want to punish them by taxing me?" And we do this in the name of reducing teen smoking. We all want to reduce teen smoking. We hope they realize that 3,000 kids a day start smoking and they are going to kill themselves, and 1,000 of them for sure in that day will be killed sooner. And we say raising the price of cigarettes will do that.

I have been traveling Wyoming. I have been asking people about the price and how that would affect them. I have been going to schools when I am out there and asking about that price. And the general consensus is, yes, for a little while it will make a difference. But they refer me to other kinds of drug use that is expensive, more expensive, and increasingly expensive, and that use is going up.

I saw a college report from the George Washington University which

was looking at the fact that they have increased the requirements on smoking on campus, and yet the number of kids smoking has gone up. At a university, they are supposed to be more intellectual perhaps. I know they believe they are. But they are still smoking more. So they are not thinking through the problem. But they asked them why. Part of it is rebelliousness. Part of it is because their parents did it. There are a number of reasons. None of the answers suggested included that the price would make a difference.

Kids today are paying outlandish amounts for a pair of tennis shoes. I sold shoes for 28 years. Would you believe they are paying 50 bucks for a pair of tennis shoes? I said that just to see if you were paying attention. Do you know that there are tennis shoes out there for 150 bucks and the kids are buying them? It is the kids that have the money to buy them. There are more kids working today, making money, and they are not using that money to help support their family. It is money that they get to spend. They are spending it on things like \$150 tennis shoes.

So an increase in the price of a pack of cigarettes will bother them for a little while but not as a long problem.

Who winds up with the money in this bill? We have heard some comments here that in the highway bill there may have been some money taken from veterans. That was money never passed by Congress, never budgeted by Congress, never funded by Congress, and wasn't even in the President's budget this year to have that money. I don't know why it isn't in this smoking bill. Everything else is. Everything else is—even things that are not remotely related to smoking. If you ever had an idea for a project, this is a bill you can put it in. We will just kick the price of cigarettes up just a little bit. That will solve everything. It started out at \$368.5 billion, went to \$516 billion, and perhaps now is at \$800 billion. We could match the regular U.S. budget in the trillions with this, eventually. We can just add in some other programs.

We are talking about compensating farmers. That will be the big debate when we get back. And the farmers ought to be involved in this debate. But we are talking about perhaps \$20,000 an acre. And they get to keep the land? We are talking about vending machine owners. The machines run \$1,500 to \$2,500, maybe \$3,500. We are talking about compensating them \$13,000 per machine? That is where their current value of future lost revenue is—the amount of money they could have made off that machine, as though it was our fault that they bought the machine, as though it was our fault that smoking was bad for people.

Those are debates we will have when we get back, and those debates will take awhile.

The FDA is being given explicit authority in this. They need to probably

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