

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, does the Senator from Florida have the floor now?

Mr. CHILES. Yes.

Mr. HUMPHREY. Could I ask the Senator from Florida to call up at this time the amendment that relates to the medical aspects first, and dispose of that one first.

Mr. CHILES. Of course, Mr. President, I send to the desk a second amendment and ask that it be stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Intended to be proposed by Mr. CHILES to S. 2335, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes,

On page 27 between lines 19 and 20 insert the following new section:

"SEC. 804. CENTER FOR PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY IN SAIGON.—Of the funds appropriated pursuant to section 802 for the fiscal year 1974, not less than \$712,000 shall be available solely for furnishing assistance to the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Saigon."

On page 27, line 20, strike out "sec. 804" and insert in lieu thereof "sec. 805".

Mr. CHILES. Mr. President, let me explain what the amendment would do. It would earmark funds for assisting the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Saigon. It would earmark \$712,000 for that Center. This language has been voted on before. It was in the House bill. It was left out of the bill this time in committee. It is a project we are well aware of and the great amount of work that needs to be done in the field of reconstructive plastic surgery in Saigon and how much the Center is doing in that way. As I say, the Senate has been on record as supporting this in the past.

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, this is a modest request in an area that is in great need of the kind of work the Senator from Florida has described. I want to commend him for his thoughtfulness in bringing this to our attention. It will mean, if the amendment is adopted—and we will have no problem in the conference with it—that we will have the matter sealed down so that I would hope all of us would accept the amendment.

Mr. CHILES. Mr. President, I am introducing an amendment today which would earmark funds for the furnishing of assistance to the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Saigon.

I first became acquainted with the Children's Medical Relief International—CMRI—through an editorial in the Gainesville Sun Newspaper. Later, in an article in Time magazine, I learned that the center was the only facility in South Vietnam dedicated to providing plastic and reconstructive surgery for children.

Mr. President, I wish every Member of this body could have seen the film I showed a little over a year ago in the Senate Auditorium. The movie told the story of some of the children in South Vietnam, the innocent victims of war who desperately need our help. The photographs of youngsters unable to close their eyes, without ears or limbs or with large portions of facial tissue destroyed due to noma, the disease that attacks malnourished children, were gruesome

to look at. And they linger in the mind, long after the film is over. The outstanding work the center accomplishes gives us some ray of hope—some channel for the expression of something positive, something constructive.

In 1967, Arthur J. Barsky, M.D. and Thomas R. Miller established Children's Medical Relief International, a nonprofit New York based agency. In 1968, in cooperation with the South Vietnamese medical community, they founded the center to care for Vietnamese civilians. At first, patients were seen in an apartment building in Saigon, but with the dedication of the new, modern structure in 1969, full scale operation of the hospital began. During the first year 400 children were served. Today the center treats more than 1,200 children annually and has already taken care of nearly 5,000 patients. The average patient's age is 8.

Rather than give a more technical description, let me quote from a letter Tom Miller received from American plastic surgeon, Richard Dakin, who served there:

Nothing in my training prepared me for the shock of my first visit to the center for plastic and reconstructive surgery. It's like going to the pound, where the puppies cluster around the visitors, playful but shy, and very appealing in their attempts to be chosen—but these puppies are really children and they are asking, they are really asking, for operations: Then one notices that eyes and noses and ears and cheeks are missing. And one sees the incredible burn contractions, heels fused to buttocks, and ears plastered down into shoulders, and fingers locked back onto little wrists. Keloids are part of nearly every burn injury, and mountains of scar tissue cascade from forehead to chin to breast bone and across brown bellies. Old skin graft donor sites look like deep burns that had never been grafted.

They are so confident that the surgeons can help them, and their quiet brown eyes follow us as we make rounds. And I wish that I had memorized every text book I had ever read and could repeat flawlessly everything my teachers had ever shown me.

Burns are a major problem in Vietnam, not only from the war but from war-related causes. Yet, in all of South Vietnam there is no adequate burn treatment facility. The Ministry of Health has repeatedly and urgently requested Children's Medical Relief International to help it establish a burn treatment facility. Even now, in spite of the fact that the center is not equipped to treat severe fresh burns, the present medical emergency has forced it to accept many fresh burn cases, forcing it to discontinue its other important work. Construction of a burns facility could begin immediately and be completed in 9 to 12 months. Badly needed burn treatment equipment could be ordered and used immediately.

I am sure most of us saw the pathetic photograph that was plastered on nearly every front page across the Nation of a little girl caught in a raid of South Vietnamese planes that missed their targets and mistakenly dropped flaming napalm on civilians—on their own soldiers. The picture showed the girl who had ripped off her burning clothes and with others in the village fled down the road in terror. Ten-year-old Samkin Toc will live to remember that awful day. In fact, her third degree burns and serious complications were treated at the center.

But with all her suffering, Samkin Toc was still one of the lucky ones who at least got treatment—and a chance to survive.

I do not believe that concern for these unfortunate children is any matter for debate among men of compassion. CMRI deserves our support because it is an organization bent on repairing, rebuilding, and healing—on the activities man performs when he is really most human.

I strongly urge the Senate to give my amendment its strong support. We decided we should not be fighting there. Now we must realize our responsibility to help pick up the broken pieces of so many innocent lives.

Mr. President, I would like to add that this amendment is in the House version of the Foreign Assistance Act. Accepting this addition to the Senate version of the bill will be an aid in eliminating any unnecessary differences between the House and the Senate versions of the bill.

The amendment contains similar language to what was in the House bill. It would earmark \$712,000 for the Center for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in Saigon. It is language that was contained in the last Senate foreign aid bill. The bill itself was defeated. This is language in the House bill at present and would earmark these funds for that center.

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, with the permission of the Senator from Minnesota, I should like to suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, we are advised and I say this because it is essential to make this very clear to the Senate as the basis on which the minority side at least with the permission of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. AIKEN) would take the amendment, that this amendment was adopted by the Senate in a foreign aid bill which never became law here recently. It is to be understood that if we adopt this provision in the Senate this afternoon, as it is exactly identical with the one in the House bill, there will be no opportunity to change it in conference; but on the representation, one, that we did adopt it before and, two, that the situation relating to the authorization remains the same, I would be prepared, if the Senator from Vermont (Mr. AIKEN) is willing, to take it.

Mr. AIKEN. Mr. President, I would be agreeable to taking it to conference. I recall that Joe McCaffery, at 6:30 this morning, referred to this as being proxy voting on the part of the Senate, however. But I would be willing to take it. But it is risky business, accepting an amendment that we have seen only 2 seconds before we have to vote on it.

Mr. CHILES. It would not be necessary to take this to conference because it