Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to take this occasion to say something about the Elian Gonzalez case. I have not spoken formerly in the Senate about it, but it has been addressed by several of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. For me, it is simple because it is not about politics; it is about the heart; it is about family.

Some may call me old fashioned. I think kids belong with their parents—unless there is some reason a child should not be with the parent, if the child has a bad parent. There is no proof of that in any way, or suggestion of that, except at the last minute the relatives who are caring for Elian, now, have made these charges.

It seems as if every time the father comes closer, he becomes a worse person. First, he was wonderful. They said, he is wonderful but he does not care about his son; he is not here. Now he is here, and they still will not turn the child over.

I have a little grandson. He is about a year younger than Elian, so I am pretty familiar with kids that age because I have watched him so closely. They are impressionable. That is why they are little children. They are babies. They are babies; they really are. They cause I have watched him so closely.

Pretty familiar with kids that age being a year younger than Elian, so I am pretty familiar with kids that age. They are caring for Elian, now, have made these charges.

We ought to do it in the best interests of this child, which means gently and peacefully.

REMEMBRANCE OF THE KATYN FOREST MASSACRE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to remind my fellow Americans of a horrific tragedy which occurred in Poland six decades ago. April 13 serves as a day of remembrance of this terrible massacre.

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland to begin World War II. Two weeks later, in accordance with the secret Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the East and completed the partition of this nation. The Soviet invasion lasted eleven days and resulted in the forced deportation of 1.5 million Poles to Russian labor camps. Of those 1.5 million, approximately 15,000 Polish military officers disappeared under mysterious circumstances. On June 22, 1941, tensions between Germany and the Soviet Union exploded as the German army stormed into Soviet territory. It would take nearly two years before the German army would uncover evidence relating to the 15,000 Polish officers who had disappeared in 1940.

In 1943, German forces near Smolensk, in western Russia, investigated reports they heard from Russian civilians to the effect that a large number of prisoners had been murdered by the Soviet secret police in the area nearly three years earlier. The German investigators were led by local Russians to a
series of mounds in a wooded area about 10 miles west of Smolensk. On April 13, 1943, German officials made a gruesome discovery as they uncovered bodies. They found numerous victims, each with hands bound behind their backs and a bullet hole in the base of their skulls. Over the course of the next month, the Germans exhumed more than 4500 corpses. Unable to continue to dig through Katyn Forest, Germany requested the assistance of the International Red Cross and representatives of neutral countries to determine the circumstances surrounding the execution and burial of these 4500 Polish officers.

After examining the bodies, these representatives reported to the appropriate authorities their conclusion that the men buried in Katyn Forest were those of Polish military officers. With a number of civilian cultural leaders, business leaders, and intellectuals—scientists, writers, and poets—who had been in the portion of Poland occupied by the Soviet Union in September 1939, the Soviet Union vehemently denied the allegations of responsibility. Once the Soviet Union had reclaimed Katyn Forest, a pro-Soviet investigation of the Katyn Forest Massacre determined that the Polish officers and leaders had been massed and buried by the German army. It would take another 45 years before the truth of the massacre would finally be acknowledged by the leaders of the Soviet Union.

Aside from United States congressional hearings held in Britain, Italy, Germany and the United States in the early 1950s, the Katyn Forest Massacre was largely forgotten by the international community. But the truth of Katyn Forest remained vivid for the Polish and Soviet nations, and both determined to discover the truth. These individuals wanted justice for the fallen comrades.

After the publication of an account of the Massacre by a Soviet historian in 1990, Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski quickly arranged a series of meetings with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet officials in an attempt to finally bring a conclusion to the Katyn conspiracy. On April 13, 1990, the day the Presidium of the Soviet Supreme Soviet met in Moscow, as the Soviet Union held its last meeting, Jaruzelski’s final meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet news agency published a statement of acknowledgment on behalf of the Soviet government for summary execution of the Polish military officers in the Katyn Forest.

In my state of Utah, education consistently ranks as one of the highest priorities for Utahns. During this year’s legislative session, Utah reaffirmed its commitment to improving education, reducing class size and paying dedicated teachers a salary commensurate with their efforts and qualifications. Utah takes its commitment to education funding very seriously. During the 1995-96 school year, education expenditures in Utah amounted to $92 per $1000 of personal income. The national average was $80 per $1000. In other words, Mr. President, Utah’s education expenditure relative to total personal income is nearly 50 percent more than the national average. It is the third highest in the nation.

In education expenditures as a percent of total direct state and local government expenditures, Utah ranks 2nd in the nation. Utah’s expenditure for education was 41.5 percent of the total amount spent for government. The national average is 35.5 percent.

Mr. President, no one can tell me that Utahns are not serious about funding education. And these efforts have garnered results. Utah’s scores on ACT tests are equal to or better than the national average in English, math, reading and science. Utah ranks 1st in the nation in Advanced Placement tests taken and passed. Still, even with these efforts, Utah remains let the nation in terms of class size and last in per-pupil expenditure. This is due to Utah’s unique demographic. Utah families are, on average, larger than any other state. Utah has the highest birth rate in the nation.

While it is true that these factors contribute to the allocation of federal education funds, most notably the Title I funds, the Clinton administration has done very little to help Utah. Indeed, many of the proposals in the administration budget would be detrimental to education efforts underway in Utah.

Among other things, this administration has consistently cut funding for Impact Aid. Impact Aid is a vital program for Utah because it helps make up for the lost property tax revenue in school districts where there is a significant federal presence. Since half of our state is federally owned or controlled, that means our schools would suffer even greater financial difficulties without Impact Aid. I applaud this administration for including the Title III Impact Aid in the Budget Resolution. Impact Aid receives $200 million, a $30 million increase over the Clinton administration request, for Utah schools.

Utah reaffirmed its commitment to improving education, reducing class size and paying dedicated teachers a salary commensurate with their efforts and qualifications.

Mr. Hatch. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed the FY 2001 Budget Resolution. I would be remiss if, upon reflection, I did not take this opportunity to talk about the federal commitment to education in my state of Utah.

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