

MEREDITH MILLER

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to articulate my deep sorrow as this week marks the anniversary of the senseless murder of Meredith Miller.

Meredith, a native of Tampa, FL, graduated with honors from Princeton University where she majored in political science. After her graduation she came to Washington to further her studies at George Washington University and to work on the issues pertaining to women. On October 17, 1994, after returning from a study group, Meredith became the victim of a carjacking.

The dream that Meredith held so dearly was to make a difference in the lives of others. Her fellow students at George Washington University would like Meredith's parents in Tampa to know that Meredith did make a difference in the lives of those fortunate enough to have known her and that their thoughts and prayers are with them today and always. Her friends miss her and learned much from her special outlook on life. She will always remain a vital part of their lives, in spirit.

Mr. President, today let us not forget the contributions Meredith Miller made in her short time here with us, and let us be diligent in our efforts to find a solution to the ever-growing number of senseless violent crimes.●

ROGER WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I rise to share with my colleagues the happy news that the Roger Williams National Memorial is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its authorization.

I want to take this chance to tell you about Roger Williams, a Founding Father that you will not encounter here, except in the rotunda of the Capitol. He was the founder of Rhode Island and a champion of Democracy and religious liberty.

There is no national memorial to Roger Williams here, unlike the monuments to other national heroes like Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln. Our national memorial is in Rhode Island, where he lived and left us a philosophical legacy of incomparable worth.

Roger Williams was banished for his beliefs from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635, but survived both banishment and subsequent efforts to take over the settlement he named Providence.

"The air of the country is sharp," Roger Williams said of Providence, "the rocks many, the trees innumerable, the grass little, the winter cold, the summer hot, the gnats in summer biting, the wolves at night howling."

Thirteen householders in the population of 32 in the first year formed the first genuine democracy—also the first church-divorced and conscience-free community—in modern history.

I cannot emphasize enough how unique and utopian the vision of Roger

Williams was in the midst of the 17th century. He was almost alone in believing that all citizens should be free to worship as their conscience dictated.

Roger Williams was a determined and dedicated man. In 1672, when he was nearly 70, he rowed all day to reach Newport for a 4-day debate with three Quaker orators. Both his settlement and his ideas have survived and prospered.

For most of his life, Roger Williams was a deeply religious man. Even without a church to call his own, his ideas flourished in Providence and remain alive today.

Documents, such as our Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence can be traced directly back to the hardfought freedoms earned by Roger Williams and his followers.

I encourage my colleagues to visit the statue of Roger Williams in the Rotunda of the Capitol. When you do, remember that even the principles of democracy and religious liberty did not come easily. Roger Williams gave them form and substance more than 350 years ago.

These principles also founded the basis of our belief that all people are created with equal rights and should not be denied opportunities to succeed because of their race, gender, or religion.

I sponsored the Senate legislation that authorized the creation of the Roger Williams National Memorial and I have watched it take shape on the site of his original settlement in Providence, RI.

This anniversary comes at an important time. One purpose of the memorial is to emphasize the linked principles of tolerance and freedom. As recent events have demonstrated, we need to focus on these principles.

I am delighted to share with my colleagues today the news that the National Park Service is planning new initiatives to strengthen the impact of the Roger Williams National Memorial and its vital message.

If you have any doubts about the significance of Roger Williams in our history, consider how his philosophy has resonated through our other Founding Fathers and found its way into our most sacred documents.

Just a few examples, culled from his writings, should help to sound his call for freedom:

"The sovereign, original, and foundation of civil power lies in the People."—The Bloody Tenent of Persecution for Conscience Discussed (1644).

"The civil state is humbly to be implored to provide in their high wisdom for security of all the respective consciences."—The Hireling Ministry None of Christs

"No person in this colony shall be molested or questioned for the matters of his conscience to God, so he be loyal and keep the civil peace."—Letter to Major John Mason (1670)

"And having in a sence of God's merciful providence unto me in my

distresse called the place Providence, I desired it might be a shelter for persons distressed for conscience."—Early Records of Providence

We owe a tremendous debt to Roger Williams as the first champion of true religious freedom and for translating principles of democracy and tolerance from concepts into substance.●

SPECIAL INTERESTS HIT STUDENT LOANS

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Roger Flaherty, now an editor at the Chicago Sun-Times, has followed the Federal student loan program for a number of years. I would urge my colleagues to consider what he has to say about the role of special interests in the current budget debate.

I ask that an article that appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times on September 27, 1995, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 27, 1995]

SPECIAL INTERESTS HIT DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM HEAD-ON

(By Roger Flaherty)

When I was younger, I walked side by side one day with Wilbur Mills, the Arkansas Democrat then always described as "chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee," asking about tax reform. In a moment of candor, he said, "If you want to reform the tax system, you've got to end all deductions."

Why not do it? I asked. Mills responded with a dismissive look—sort of sneer and condescension—and turned to another reporter. So I learned that Washington people don't do as they think or say. We should keep that in mind as the Congress plows into a fall agenda that promises more moves to "get government off our backs."

Like tax deductions, government-run programs are bad until they are good for you or your friends. You usually hear this truism about defense contracts and farm subsidies.

But there's one I've observed closely in recent years—the student loan program. Several years ago, along with Sun-Times reporter Leon Pitt, I uncovered enormous abuses by for-profit trade schools that were using student loans like government vouchers they could squander any way they chose. They enrolled students into programs they were unable to complete or that were so poor in quality as to be useless. When students dropped out, within hours sometimes, the schools kept the loan money in violation of the law. The United States was being defrauded of billions of dollars.

But when reformers tried to tighten loan rules, school industry lobbyists fought them, arguing the reforms were an assault on free enterprise. It was a strange argument, considering that these schools generally received more than 90 percent of their income from government loans and grants.

Well, that odd assertion is again being made in Congress, where conservative Republicans under the guise of getting government off our backs are attacking the direct student loan program. The program, which is scheduled to be phased in over several years, operates successfully at several Illinois institutions, including the University of Illinois. The program allows loans to be made directly from the federal treasury through college financial aid offices.

This is bad, congressional opponents say, because it furthers big government and hurts

business. How ingenuous can you get? Under the old loan system still being used by most schools, a student applies to a bank for a loan. Checking his or her qualifications is a loan guarantee agency, commonly run by state governments, but also by private enterprise. The agencies then issue a guarantee of repayment to the banks. The federal government pays banks subsidies to forgive part of the interest payments and pays fees to the guarantee agencies for their services.

If a student defaults on a loan, the bank is reimbursed—making student loans the safest loans a bank can make. Loan guarantee agencies are paid fees to hound defaulters. Is this not big government? Can this be free enterprise?

There's more. The old system created a secondary loan business, including the huge public-private Sallie Mae association based in Washington, and smaller ones, like one operated by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. These groups make money by buying loans from banks and packaging them in large blocks for resale. They were created by Congress and the states to free money for more student loans, but as was said of some missionaries to Hawaii, Sallie Mae and its emulators came to do good and ended up doing well. They are big businesses with highly paid executives.

The direct loan program, a plan advanced by Sen. Paul Simon (D-Makanda), eliminated this entire pyramid. No government subsidy or risk-free lending for banks, no government payments to loan-guarantee agencies, no Sallie Maes with executives paid from profits extracted from government loan subsidies.

But odds are increasing that Congress this fall will stop the direct loan program in its tracks, led by the same people who claim they are trying to get government off our backs. And so far, it seems to be going down like a cold, sweet Coke on a hot summer's day. •

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am pleased to add my name as a cosponsor to S. 581, the National Right to Work Act. As a strong supporter of the right to work, I feel this legislation is vital.

We have spent the first part of this Congress fighting for freedom—the freedom from Government intervention, the freedom of speech, the freedom to choose your health care and even the freedom to succeed. This bill, though it does not add a single letter to Federal law, guarantees the freedom to work free of union imposition.

Why is this important? Americans have always been independent. No matter where they came from, they came to America to see their hard work pay off. And they are not afraid of hard work. This is especially true of Montanans.

But when a worker is forced to pay union dues in order to get a job or keep a job, they have lost part of their freedom. They may get some benefits from joining a union—I am not saying there is no role for unions here—but they lose the freedom to choose.

Mr. President, Congress created the law which allows union officials to force dues in any State back in 1935. Now we need to correct that. All we need to do is to repeal that portion of the National Labor Relations Act

[NLRA] which authorizes the imposition of forced union dues contracts on employees.

Nearly every poll taken on this issue over the last few decades has shown that about 8 out of 10 Americans are opposed to forcing workers to pay union dues. It is tough to get 8 out of 10 Americans to agree on anything. I think this is a call for action.

And if you look at job creation in States that have implemented right to work laws, it is hard to ignore the results. Hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs have been created in right-to-work States. And in forced-unionism States, hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost.

I have supported this bill in the past and I truly believe that this is the year to finally make this change. Working men and women in Montana want the freedom to work and they are not alone. I urge my colleagues to listen to what their constituents are saying as well. If you do, you will feel compelled to join me and the other cosponsors in supporting the National Right to Work Act. •

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR AMERICORP

• Mr. PELL. Mr. President, this month marks the start of a new class of AmeriCorps members who are dedicated to serving this Nation. As AmeriCorps celebrates its first successful year and the new class begins its service, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my support for continued Federal funding of this important national service initiative.

Over the past year, 20,000 AmeriCorps members worked in schools, hospitals, national parks, and law enforcement organizations to meet the most crucial needs of individual communities. AmeriCorps clearly helps to provide a more promising future for Americans by expanding educational opportunities for the young while simultaneously improving the public services in hundreds of communities.

In my own State of Rhode Island, AmeriCorps has been particularly successful due to the efforts of Lawrence K. Fish, chairman of the Rhode Island Commission for National and Community Service. Mr. Fish challenged higher education institutions in Rhode Island to grant scholarships to AmeriCorps members. Many of our colleges and universities answered Mr. Fish's challenge and have begun lending their support in the form of college scholarships. His endeavor to expand AmeriCorps has offered more students access to an otherwise unaffordable education. Mr. Fish's exemplary work in Rhode Island serves as the quintessential example of building the natural bridge between public service and educational opportunities. In this regard, I ask that an opinion editorial by Lawrence Fish from the Providence

Journal of October 11 be printed in the RECORD.

The editorial follows:

[From the Providence (RI) Journal, Oct. 11, 1995]

THE CHALLENGE OF AMERICORPS

(By Lawrence K. Fish)

Not surprisingly, the debate in Washington over continued funding of the Corporation for National Service has become laser-focused on the politics of embarrassing President Clinton, and not on the people for whom AmeriCorps has been a ringing success.

And the reason is not surprising. It is that Washington, to the frustration of just about everyone outside the District of Columbia, just can't resist playing an inside-the-Beltway version of Gotcha! From the politicians to the pundits to the press, the emphasis remains on the politics of issues, not on the substance of issues or their impact on real people.

For whom has AmeriCorps been successful? It's been a success here in Rhode Island to the 250 AmeriCorps members who have signed up for this domestic Peace Corps and whose efforts, mostly in education, have made better, dramatically better, the lives of thousands of our neighbors. Giver and receiver have been enriched by the effort, and for that, Rhode Island is a better place.

Let me try to explain why AmeriCorps' success here in Rhode Island ought to serve as a model for programs in the 49 other states, and why that success and our promise for the future stand as far more compelling points in the debate than political one-upmanship.

AmeriCorps members have served in cities and towns from Woonsocket to Newport, bringing with them a wealth of desire, experience and cultural diversity. They have gotten results—good results that are measurable. You can see the results on paper and you can see them on the faces of children getting their first "A's" and in adults reading for the first time.

Rhode Island's AmeriCorps program has been very successful—and has been recognized as such. For the second straight year, after a very competitive process that pitted us against 49 other states, we received more AmeriCorps funding on a per capita basis than any other state. In this our second year Rhode Island will field 250 AmeriCorps members in eight programs that will touch the lives of thousands of our neighbors. Once again, they will work predominantly in education, because that's where many believe the greatest need is.

Linking public service and education, we approached the leaders of the state's colleges, universities and technical schools to see if they would accept our AmeriCorps challenge to inaugurate a public-private partnership from which they will get the lessons of service and commitment from AmeriCorps veterans and to which they will provide a quality education.

The Rev. Philip Smith of Providence College was the first to meet the challenge, and Vartan Gregorian of Brown was close behind. They were followed almost immediately by our other higher-education leaders—Bob Carothers of URI, Sister Therese Antone of Salve Regina, Bill Trueheart of Bryant, Roger Mandle of RISD, Jack Yena of Johnson and Wales and Ed Liston of CCRI. I mention them to dramatize that AmeriCorps runs cost-effective, successful, nonpartisan programs.

I accompanied the presidents of seven of the state's public and private colleges and universities to Washington for meetings on Capitol Hill and in the White House. There we outlined the Rhode Island Challenge to