

laws to be more efficient and less burdensome.

But, we must not exploit the current frustration with Government to gut all laws protecting our environment.

Those who claim we must eviscerate environmental rules in order to sustain our economy are at best disingenuous. They know—we all know—that we cannot strengthen our economy if we destroy our environment. In fact, establishing policies for a sustainable environment is an economic necessity. We must develop policies using balance, reason, and good science.

We will debate many important environmental issues in this Congress. Let us hold ourselves to those standards: balance, reason, and good science.

Pollution does not respect ideological boundaries. So our efforts to prevent pollution, to clean up mistakes from our past, and to plan thoughtfully for the future on this delicate planet must transcend those boundaries.

In my lifetime, the world population has doubled, and the U.S. population has soared from 150 million to 260 million people. At current growth rates, it's projected that the U.S. population will double—to 522 million people—just 60 years from now.

The cold, hard truth is that the Earth cannot supply the resources to sustain such a large human population unless we change our consumption and conservation practices now.

Earth Day reminds us that the Earth is not an infinitely bountiful cornucopia. Rather, it is a planet of finite resources from which comes the materials for our food, clothing, and shelter. We must learn to live within its geological and biological limits.

Environmental issues are often expressed in by scientists in complicated, technical terms. But the essential issue is really quite simple and critical for all of us to embrace. President Theodore Roosevelt put it best early in this century when he said: "A nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased—not impaired—in value."

We have an obligation to our children and our children's children to safeguard their future, to preserve the water, soil, air, minerals, rivers, and oceans that are the resource base of this diverse planet and the many life forms that inhabit it.

Last week, students at the Grandview Elementary School in Rapid City spoke with me about pressing environmental problems and possible solutions.

Let us not disappoint our children. Let us, Democrats and Republicans alike, heed Sitting Bull's plea to "put our heads together," to work together, "to see what life we can make for our children."

SAFE WORKPLACES FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, our Nation's history includes too many

tragic and avoidable workplace accidents that have maimed and killed workers.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire early in this century, in which women died because the owner had locked the fire doors to prevent them taking an unauthorized work break, remains one of the most horrifying examples.

Twenty-five years ago last Friday, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act. With that legislation, we made a commitment to all American workers that the places where they earned their living would not themselves pose a hazard to life or health.

Yet it has been just a couple of years since the Hamlet chicken processing plant fire had a result all too similar to the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory disaster, and for the same cause—a locked fire escape door. Twenty-five working people in North Carolina died in that fire.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act was intended to prevent such tragedies, but despite the passage of a quarter century, its work is not yet done.

Every year, more than 6,000 workers are killed by workplace injuries; more than 50,000 die each year from occupational diseases.

We have made great strides in cleaning up the chemicals and other contaminants that pose a hazard to health in many workplaces. Most American employers are anxious to create workplaces that will not cause injury to their own employees.

But the number of deaths each year, whether from immediate injury or from the long-range effects of exposure to hazardous substances, means we cannot say that the work of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration is finished. It is not.

It is inconceivable that, with this heavy toll of premature worker death, there is today a concerted effort to roll back and eviscerate workplace safety provisions that protect workers today.

This is a misguided and mistaken approach. We are seeing improvements in the rate of workplace safety, with reduced injuries and accidents. Clearly, the work done by Federal and State inspectors is having an effect. It is counterproductive to take an effective enforcement approach and seek to weaken it.

American workers deserve better. American workers should not have to fear that the Congress, which promised to protect their health a quarter of a century ago, will today renege on that promise.

There are undoubtedly improvements to be made in the enforcement field, but proposals to eliminate the tools of enforcement itself are not improvements. They will do nothing but undermine the ability of inspectors to do their job.

There are fewer than 2,000 Federal workplace safety inspectors. They are already overwhelmed by the scope of their responsibilities. If they don't

have the tools with which to enforce safety requirements, the promise of a safe workplace will become an empty one.

A week after the ultimate workplace tragedy, the bombing in Oklahoma City that took the lives of so many Federal employees as they worked at their desks, it is worthwhile to remember the tragic and wasteful loss of life that goes unremarked in the workplace every day.

I commend the AFL-CIO and its affiliates for the continued effort they make, through Workers Memorial Day, to recall to the national memory the lives needlessly lost to preventable injuries and hazards on the job.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this week we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Armenian genocide—the death of over 1.5 million Armenians and their exile from their homeland.

This terrible tragedy marked the beginning of an ugly period in human history where there have been attempts to systematically liquidate certain ethnic groups. The Nazi Holocaust, the extermination of the Kulaks by Stalin, and the ruthless murders of innocent Cambodians by the Khmer Rouge are all further examples of brutality against fellow human beings. Today, people are being killed in the Balkans, Rwanda, and Burundi once again because they are members of a different ethnic group.

What can we learn from all these tragedies and especially the one we commemorate today? The first and foremost lesson is to acknowledge that a tragedy occurred and admit that it is a crime against all of humanity. Then we must never allow the world to forget what happened here and the fate of these people. This is why we mark this date in history—and why we must continue to do so.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire was in a state of collapse. The Empire was exhausting its last strength in fighting World War I. The economy was in tatters and the Government was in a state of confusion. The victims of this time of upheaval were the Armenian people who were either killed or forced to flee their homelands.

The Armenian people kept their culture and beliefs, and with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Nation of Armenia was born. This birth has been a troubled one.

The tragic 7-year conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has cost thousands of lives and displaced over a million people. I am very encouraged, however, by the cease-fire which has been in place in Nagorno-Karabakh for 1 year this month.

I am also encouraged that Russia decided this past December to work with the Minsk Group of the OSCE to seek a peaceful solution in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Minsk Group, cochaired by Russia and Finland, has been meeting regularly to address the needs of all the concerned parties. The process is moving along slowly, but there is hope that a peacekeeping unit may soon be in Nagorno-Karabakh to ensure the safety of all people.

The United States is eager to see a lifting of the blockade of Armenia and to see a return to the free flow of humanitarian aid in this region. We share the aspirations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the other members of the OSCE Minsk Group for a peaceful solution to this troubling problem.

We must do whatever we can to solve the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. We must use all available resources to see that the tragedy which befell Armenians in the first part of this century is not repeated—either in Armenia or anywhere else in the world. On this, the 80th anniversary of a terrible genocide, we must learn from the past and make sure that such a tragedy is never repeated.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, once again I join my colleagues in pausing to reflect upon, and remember the victims of, this century's first example of the horrendous crime of genocide, the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. April 24, 1995, marked the 80th anniversary of the beginning of this tragedy. On that day in 1915, some 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and exiled or taken to the interior and executed. For the next several years, Armenians were systematically expelled and deported. Some were killed and others left to die of deprivation. When the horror ended in 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had perished and another 500,000 had fled their homeland.

Evidence of the Armenian genocide is available from a number of sources, among the most compelling of which is the reporting of our own United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau. In a cable to the Secretary of State, Ambassador Morgenthau wrote:

Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in process under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion.

Some may ask why it is important to take time each year to commemorate an event which occurred over half a century ago. In reply I would recall the reported observation of Adolph Hitler as he contemplated the "final solution"—"Who remembers the Armenians?"

Sadly, as we all well know, the Armenian peoples' tragedy was not the last

genocide of this century; there followed the horrors of the Holocaust and the extermination of the Cambodians during the brutal Khmer Rouge regime. Surveying the world today we unfortunately see many too many examples of brutal ethnic, religious, or tribal-based conflict, from ethnic cleansing in Bosnia to massacres in Rwanda.

Today we remember the 1½ million victims of the Armenian genocide. It is not comfortable to remind ourselves of this tragedy, or to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum, or to see ongoing atrocities in real time on our television screens. Let us hope and pray today that we never allow ourselves to become complacent about man's inhumanity to man. For in the words of Edmund Burke, "the only thing necessary of the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

ARMENIAN COMMEMORATION

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I join many of my colleagues today in commemorating one of history's greatest tragedies: The slaughter 80 years ago of more than 1 million Armenians. That brutal assault on the Armenian people was an unconscionable effort to deny Armenians basic political and social rights of self-determination, independence, cultural identity, and community.

The atrocity could not extinguish the Armenian people's desire for freedom and justice. The Armenian community survives in many places around the globe, including, thankfully, the United States of America. In commemorating the immense tragedy which took place 80 years ago, we are honoring the achievements and lives of those who perished. We are also paying tribute to the perseverance and vigor of the Armenian people, who have maintained their cultural and historical identity despite oppression and diaspora. They continue to make positive contributions wherever they are, including in the United States and in the Republic of Armenia.

Commemorating these tragic events of 80 years ago, we also recognize the need for vigilance and action in the face of ethnic intolerance and injustice. Failure to learn the lessons of such events in history will unquestionably lead to future tragedies.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, April 24 was the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. On that day in 1915, 200 Armenian leaders were arrested in Constantinople, now Istanbul, and taken to the Turkish interior, where they were executed. This act marked the beginning of the first genocide of the 20th century.

From 1915–1923, 1.5 million Armenians were killed and more than 500,000 were exiled. By 1923, the entire Armenian population, which had numbered 2

million, 9 years before, was removed from Turkey.

During the last years of the Ottoman Empire, the government carried out the extermination of the Christian Armenian minority as a matter of government policy. The Turks were concerned that the Armenian population sympathized with the Allied Powers, and were worried that they might side with the Russians in the Turkish-Russian conflict during World War I. The Ottoman Government felt they needed to fully contain the Armenians.

All Armenians were equal candidates to be deported or massacred—men, women, children, the elderly. The Ottoman Empire justified the genocide as one of the necessary military operations during wartime.

Many Armenians were transferred from their homes and taken to desolate areas to be abused and killed in mass slayings. They were moved either by forced caravan marches or by overly packed cattle car trains, both of which caused massive casualties.

The survivors of these deportations were sent to camps in the middle of the Syrian desert, where they faced heat, starvation, exhaustion, thirst, and disease.

In addition to the loss of life, Armenian churches, libraries, towns, and other symbols of their culture were razed. The property and belongings of individual Armenians were transferred to the state.

The massacres ended only after the intervention by the Great Powers, including the United States. Henry Morgenthau, the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, organized and led protests against the targeting of Armenians. Congress chartered an organization, Near East Relief, which provided \$113 million between 1915–1930 for the Armenians' cause. 132,000 Armenian orphans were sent to America and placed in foster homes. The United States' efforts stopped the Turks from fully completing their plan of extermination. Unfortunately, though, we were unable to protect the majority of the Armenians from that brutal government.

Those who were not killed were scattered around the globe. The largest community of Armenians today is in the United States, and approximately 25,000 Armenians live in Illinois.

I believe it is important to recognize this history of suffering. The United States should make April 24 a national day of remembering the Armenian genocide. We must acknowledge the Armenian genocide for what it was.

There is no way we can go back and change history, but we must recount the truth of what happened to the Armenian people between 1915–1923 in the Ottoman Empire. We must demonstrate that the attempted extermination of an entire people will not be tolerated. We must not forget those who suffered and died.