

force against the citizens, the people can respond with a superior amount of arms."

The Militia of Montana frequently uses anti-Semitic code words like "shadow government" and "banking elites." Its director, Bob Fletcher, defends this rhetoric this way: "If the bulk of the banking elite are Jewish, is that anti-Semitic? The people who are doing this are the international banking elite, and if they are all Jews, so be it, but that's not the case. I don't care if they're Arabs or monkeys."

Associated with the Militia of Montana is the more extreme Freemen movement. The Militia warns of tyranny to come; the Freemen say it exists today. A Freeman leader offers the following "proof": "A Social Security card/number, marriage licenses, driver's licenses, insurance, vehicle registration, welfare from the corporations, electrical inspections, permits to build your private home, income taxes, property taxes."

Look at the Freemen's racial theories. The same fellow who says marriage licenses are tyranny believes people who are not white are "beasts." Only whites go to heaven; Jews are children of Satan.

The rhetoric of these groups embraces a range of enemies, from the Federal Government to "the New World Order." Their real target, however, is local law enforcement. Nick Murnion, the Garfield County Attorney, recalls threats the Freemen made against him last year. "They told me they weren't going to bother building a gallows. They were just going to let me swing from the bridge," he says.

A month ago, armed members of yet a third group, the North American Volunteer Militia, threatened the marshal in the town of Darby. He had pulled over a car whose license plates expired in 1992, and later describes what followed: "They had weapons and they were shaking them at us and yelling that they were going to kill us. We backed off a little bit and then left because we could see that it could turn into a blood-bath."

The good news is that ringleaders of the hate groups are few. Nick Murnion believes there are no more than 30 around Montana. Most refuse to pay taxes and obey the laws. They should be arrested, tried and jailed. Otherwise, the situation may worsen. As one prosecutor, County Attorney John Bohlman, says: "The more the Federal and local law enforcement agencies behave with a hands-off attitude, the more bold and daring these groups become."

But law enforcement is only part of it. Casual adherents of militias statewide are not criminals. And a united community can deal with them by taking a stand against hate.

Americans have the right to say what they believe. But with that right comes the responsibility to respect our neighbors, respect law enforcement and obey the laws.

In November 1993, a group of skinheads threw a bottle through the glass door of a Jewish family's in Billings. A few days later, they put a brick through a window of another Jewish household; a 5-year-old boy was in the room at the time.

In response, Billings rallied behind the Jewish community. The Billings Gazette printed a full-page drawing of a menorah, and people all over town pasted them in their windows. We held our biggest Martin Luther King Day march ever in February. And the skinheads fled.

The same treatment will work this time. Americans everywhere must speak out. We all must make hatemongers unwelcome in our towns and communities. And we must stand by the heroes in this struggle, the police and county prosecutors who stand up to the extremists.

It is that simple. And after Oklahoma City, it is about time. •

CONFERENCE ON AGING

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to congratulate the White House Conference on Aging which, as I understand it, just this afternoon passed a resolution that I ask unanimous consent be made part of the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PROTECTING MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

Whereas Congress is beginning an historic debate on Medicare and Medicaid as the 1995 White House Conference on Aging deliberates on its recommendations to the Nation;

Whereas U.S. health care cost and coverage shortcomings continue to go unaddressed;

Whereas health care reform and the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund are inextricably intertwined;

Whereas the opening session of the Conference heard statements of support for Medicare and Medicaid from both Democratic and Republican members of Congress; and

Whereas the President in his address challenged the delegates to come together on a multigenerational, bipartisan basis to address the problems facing the nation. Therefore, be it,

Resolved by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:

Address problems facing the Medicare and Medicaid programs in the context of broad-based health care reform, as the President has proposed;

Oppose massive cuts soon to be considered in Congress;

Protect Medicare and Medicaid from any steps backwards by way of reduced health care or long term care coverage;

Apply any savings that may come from changes in Medicare and Medicaid as a result of health care reform to strengthen the programs and expand coverage, including long term care, rather than to meet arbitrary deficit reduction targets;

Prohibit additional costs being put on beneficiaries that would make health care unaffordable;

Maintain quality, preserve choice of provider and oppose proposals that have the effect of financially coercing beneficiaries into plans that do not guarantee access to their own physicians;

Prohibit the use of savings in Medicare and Medicaid for tax cuts for well off citizens.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the resolution is entitled "Protecting Medicare and Medicaid."

The important part of the resolution simply says:

Therefore, be it *Resolved* by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:

Address problems facing the Medicare and Medicaid programs in the context of broad-based health care reform, as the President has proposed;

Oppose massive cuts soon to be considered in Congress;

Prohibit the use of savings in Medicare and Medicaid for tax cuts for well-off citizens.

I think it is very important that everyone understand the ramifications of the proposals to cut Medicare in the budget resolution. It would simply be the largest insurance rate hike in Medicare history. The plan would cost \$900 per person in additional out-of-pocket

expenses for Medicare recipients by the year 2002, a total of about \$3,500 over the next 7 years. We cannot accept that. I do not believe that the vast majority of the American people will accept it. Certainly, if this resolution is any indication, senior citizens across the country, represented by the White House Conference on Aging, will not accept it as part of our budget, as part of any plan relating to Medicare reform this year.

So I am very pleased with the action taken by the White House conference. I hope we can talk more about that in the coming days.

REMEMBERING VIETNAM 20 YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE WAR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, on April 24, 1964, Sergeant First Class Raymond Adams, a 10-year Army veteran, was killed by a hand grenade in South Vietnam. Sergeant Adams was 30 years old and married. More than 8 years later, on July 21, 1972, Specialist Fifth Class Steven Allen Trant died in South Vietnam. He was 21 years old, and had been in the Army less than a year.

They were the first, and the last South Dakotans to die in Vietnam. In between their too early deaths, our country was changed utterly.

More than 3 million Americans served in Vietnam. Hundreds of thousands were injured, some permanently, and more than 58,000 young Americans died in the war.

Today, 20 years after the last helicopter lifted off the roof of the American embassy in Saigon we pause to say thank you to all of the men and women who served in that long, sad war and to remember those who did not return.

One of the most important ways we can show our thanks, of course, is by making sure Vietnam veterans get the medical care and compensation they need for injuries they suffered in that war.

Every man or woman who puts on a uniform is at risk of harm. They accept that risk as part of their service. In return, we, as a nation, must accept responsibility to care for men and women if they are harmed during their military service.

Congress took a big step toward fulfilling that responsibility to Vietnam veterans in 1991 when we agreed to allow Vietnam veterans to receive compensation for nine different illnesses and disabilities caused by their exposure to agent orange.

The National Academy of Sciences is now investigating possible links between agent orange exposure and other illnesses. I suspect that additional illnesses will be added to the list of ailments for which Vietnam veterans may be compensated in the future, and I support the Academy in its continuing research.

It doesn't matter whether a wound is inflicted with a bullet or a piece of

shrapnel or a toxic defoliant. In each case, the wound is real, and so is our obligation to help the veteran who suffers it.

We also need more research into our health concerns of Vietnam vets.

In all, more than 682,000 Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans are now disabled as a result of their military service.

And a respected study by the independent Research Triangle Institute estimates that more than 960,000 men who fought in Vietnam and 1,900 women—nearly one in three Vietnam veterans—suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. For some, the effects are few and fleeting. For others, they are chronic and debilitating.

So as we mark this 20th anniversary of the end of our Nation's most painful period this century, let us remember the words of Abraham Lincoln as he spoke them in his second inaugural to the Nation still grieving from another terrible war that divided our Nation. He said:

Let us strive to finish the work that we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace.

Let us show our thanks to Vietnam veterans this week, next week, and at all times in the future by pledging to give the Department of Veterans Affairs the resources it needs to keep the promises we made to all Vietnam veterans.

Let us show our thanks by strengthening community-based veterans health care centers, by making a commitment to keep veterans centers vital and independent. These centers do not duplicate the work of VA hospitals. They serve different people with different needs, and we ought to maintain them.

Finally, Mr. President, it is time for this Nation to move toward normalizing relations with Vietnam. I know the arguments against normalization, and I sympathize with them. I understand that the prospect of restoring diplomatic ties with Vietnam is painful to many Americans, especially those who have friends and family members among those who remain unaccounted for in Vietnam.

Experience has shown that it is precisely by expanding our ties with Vietnam that we are most likely to learn what happened to soldiers who never returned.

In the years when we had no contact with Vietnam, we made no progress on the question of those missing in action.

So I stand with my colleagues, Senator MCCAIN, Senator BOND, Senator KERRY of Massachusetts, and others on both sides of the aisle in urging that we move cautiously toward a fuller dialog with Vietnam in order to secure answers for the families and healing for our Nation.

We can never repay Sgt. Raymond Adams and Specialist Steven Trant or any of the other 58,000 Americans who

lost their lives in Vietnam, but we can show our respect and our gratitude, and we can continue the effort to bind up the Nation's wounds from a war that, in some ways, still divides us.

MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—S. 761

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I understand that S. 761, introduced earlier today by myself and Senator BIDEN, is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 761) to improve the ability of the United States to respond to the international terrorist threat.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask for the second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is an objection. This bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Is the Democratic leader finished?

Mr. DASCHLE. Yes.

APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d-276g, as amended, appoints the following Senators as Members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the first session of the 104th Congress, to be held in Huntsville, ON, Canada, May 18-22, 1995:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], and the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON].

COMMONSENSE PRODUCT LIABILITY AND LEGAL REFORM ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will resume the pending business, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 956) to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Alaska, I suggest the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 690 TO AMENDMENT NO. 596

(Purpose: To provide for a uniform product liability law and to provide assurance of access to certain biomaterials)

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL], for himself and Mr. DOLE, proposes an amendment numbered 690 to amendment No. 596.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent further reading be dispensed.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the pending substitute amendment to H.R. 956, the product liability bill:

Slade Gorton, Dan Coats, Richard G. Lugar, John Ashcroft, Rod Grams, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Judd Gregg, Strom Thurmond, Jay Rockefeller, Trent Lott, Rick Santorum, Larry E. Craig, Bob Smith, Don Nickles, R.F. Bennett, John McCain, Connie Mack.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the pending substitute amendment to H.R. 956, the product liability bill:

Slade Gorton, Dan Coats, Richard G. Lugar, John Ashcroft, Rod Grams, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Judd Gregg, Strom Thurmond, Jay Rockefeller, Trent Lott, Rick Santorum, Larry E. Craig,