

like everyone else in society is treated, give us the opportunities to succeed that other Americans are given as a matter of birthright, let us participate in the mainstream of American life.

So we have made progress. When in the past Jackie Robinson was spit upon and received death threats over the phone, today Michael Jordan can give genuine happiness to millions of Americans, of all creeds and colors, merely by deciding to trade in his baseball cleats for a pair of sneakers. When one of our country's greatest institutions, the U.S. Army, once had to be desegregated by Presidential decree, in modern times Colin Powell rose to lead that institution and now is one of our most popular public figures. When minorities were once threatened and intimidated from exercising the franchise, now hundreds of minorities hold public office throughout the country and dozens of minority legislators sit here in the U.S. Congress.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has been at the forefront of this march of progress. The principles of equality, inclusion, and tolerance that it promotes are reflected in the structure of the organization, as it is comprised of 180 different groups representing people from all walks of life, all shades of skin color, and all denominations and ethnicities. The legislative achievements of the conference are monumental—not only for the importance of the bills on American life, but for the bipartisan support that they achieved. The Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1982, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act are but a few of the conference's noteworthy achievements.

But one cannot look back fondly at successes without also thinking about our past shortcomings as well. Here we stand, a generation after the civil rights revolution, and we must ask how history will judge us. Have we done all we could to make our society more just, opportunities more available, tolerance and understanding more pervasive, violence less prevalent? Have poverty, intolerance, and ignorance been marginalized or have our actions or omissions led to the marginalizations of the poor, the uneducated, and others occupying the bottom rung of society?

Any honest appraisal must conclude that our record is mixed. Progress has been made in many areas, but we are going backward in others. Our problems were once simple and clear issues of equal justice that could be solved merely by changing the law. Our current problems now bear on complex social conditions that few can explain and even fewer know how to solve.

There is also new unrest in the country that is manifesting itself in ugly ways. Extremists seek to place at odds peoples and communities that have been traditional and genuine allies. The ethos of tolerance, dialog, and reconciliation are being subverted by those who, appealing to baser instincts,

seek to balkanize America. And remarkably, there are those who now want to move to a color-blind society, based on the make-believe view that racism and intolerance are things of the past and that our centuries of overt discrimination have had absolutely no bearing on the current condition of the least fortunate members of society. It is as if many believe that the Emancipation Proclamation and Civil Rights Acts were written at the time of the Magna Carta and the beating of Rodney King happened centuries, not just years, ago.

But rather than be discouraged in the face of our failures, and lament about the difficult challenges ahead, we must find hope in the progress that has been made and summon the resolve to redouble our efforts to remake our society to bring us closer to the ideals we hold dear. The work of the Leadership Conference is not done. We are a better society as a result of its 45 years of dedication to equality and we will be a better society due to its work in the future.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, on August 19, 1944, Parisians rose up in defiance of their German occupiers as Hitler ordered his army to destroy the city. His generals, however, delayed the order, and American and Free French Forces liberated Paris on August 25. Meanwhile, General Patton was racing eastward toward the German border and Rhine River. To the north, British Forces led by Field Marshall Montgomery swept into Belgium and captured Antwerp on September 4. On September 17, about 20,000 paratroopers dropped behind German lines to seize bridges in the Netherlands. But bad weather and other problems hampered the operation.

Adolf Hitler pulled his failing resources together for another assault. On December 16, 1944, German troops surprised and overwhelmed the Americans in Belgium and Luxembourg, but they lacked the troops and fuel to turn their thrust into a breakthrough. Within 2 weeks, the Americans stopped the German advance near Belgium's Meuse River. This offensive in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg became known as the "Battle of the Bulge," because of the bulging shape of the battleground as it appeared on a map. It was to be among the war's most bloody battles. Although Hitler's men knew they were beaten, it became clear that complete victory over Germany would have to wait until 1945.

Soviet Forces entered Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria in January 1945. The Germans had pulled out of Greece and Yugoslavia in the fall of 1944. But held out in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, until February 1945. Vienna fell to Soviet troops in April. By then, Soviet troops occupied nearly all of Eastern Europe, a sign of victory then, but,

in retrospect, also an ominous harbinger of the nature of the post-World War II world.

The Allies began their final assault on Germany in early 1945. Soviet soldiers reached the Oder River, about 40 miles from Berlin, in January. Forces in the West occupied positions along the Rhine by early March. British and Canadian Forces cleared the Germans out of the Netherlands and swept into northern Germany as the Americans and French raced toward the Elbe River in central Germany. Hitler ordered his soldiers to fight to the death, but large numbers surrendered each day.

The capture of Berlin was left to the Soviets. By April 25, 1945, they had surrounded the city. From a bunker deep underground, Hitler ordered German soldiers to fight on. On April 30, he committed suicide. He remained convinced that his cause had been right, but that the German people had ultimately proven weak and unworthy of his rule.

Grand Adm. Karl Doenitz briefly succeeded Hitler as the leader of Germany, almost immediately arranging for Germany's surrender. On May 7, 1945, Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl, Chief of Staff of the German Armed Forces, signed a statement of unconditional surrender at General Eisenhower's headquarters in France. World War II in Europe had, at last, come to an end. Fifty years ago, the Allies declared May 8 "V-E Day"—Victory in Europe Day. America could now concentrate all of its strength toward the battle still being waged in the Pacific, which would last for 3 more months.

Today, the world celebrates a victory that represented the triumph of good over unspeakable evil, and the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe battered and torn by the bloodiest war in its history. May 8 is particularly special this year, since it marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the European chapter of World War II.

As the Allies had advanced in Europe, they discovered the horrifying remnants of the Nazis' "final solution." Hitler had ordered the imprisonment of Jews and members of other minority groups in concentration camps. The starving survivors of the death camps gave proof of the terrible suffering of those who had already died.

Today, we are familiar with those faces and pictures of death and destruction, but that familiarity has not led to understanding in many cases. We have the Holocaust Memorial Museum as a reminder of the past and as a warning to future generations of the grave dangers that are the ultimate fruits of hate, division, depravity. Victory in Europe Day, then, is also a time to reflect and to ask ourselves how such brutality could have been inflicted on the human race, and how it can be prevented from ever occurring again.

Hitler's rise to power was based upon a message of hate, of pitting one class

against another, of demonizing Jews and others. His was a message of division, of blaming others for one's problems. During the early 1930's, Hitler instituted a policy of elimination of political opponents, of "enemies of the state." According to the statutes of the security police, Jews, politically active churches, Freemasons, politically dissatisfied people, members of the Black Front, and economic manipulators, among others, were singled out for persecution.

Hitler set down his political goals in his notorious book, "Mein Kampf." His foreign policy plans revolved around the central aim of exterminating the Jews as the mortal enemy of the Aryan race. During the first stage, following the seizure of power, the "cancerous democracy," as he called it, was to be abolished, and Jews, Bolsheviks, and Marxists were to be banished from the national community. Following the internal consolidation of the Reich, the German position in central Europe was to be secured step by step and then strengthened into world dominance.

While Hitler had fought the existing government aggressively prior to his imprisonment for high treason, during which he wrote "Mein Kampf," he adopted a new tactic after his early release from jail. Power was to be won slowly and legally as he systematically and methodically built up the Nazi empire. He used the Reichstag fire of February 27, 1933, as an opportunity to replace the constitutional laws of the Weimar Republic by passing an emergency decree "to protect the people and the state." This marked the beginning of the hounding and arresting of political opponents, especially those on the left. The public was subjected to propaganda on a grand scale, instructed "to think nothing but German, to feel German, and to behave German." Germans were also placed under heavy surveillance by the police and secret agents.

Hitler was able to create the Nazi state by fanning the flames of paranoia, distrust, and fear. By making the Jews and others "faceless rats" devoid of humanity, he was able to make his henchmen commit acts which shock and offend our sensibilities as human beings. He was successful in making these groups scapegoats responsible for all of Germany's economic and social ills. Just as some today try to divide, demonize, and scapegoat, Hitler managed to unite his people through their hatred of common enemies.

Too often today, the solution to our problems seems to be to blame someone else—the poor, minorities, immigrants, and bureaucrats. The politics of blame is a basic tactic of those who preach intolerance and division, whether on the left or right. Hitler was perhaps history's most terrible and tragic example of what can result when the politics of blame and hate are allowed to fester and grow. Too often, people attempt to glorify themselves by tearing down those with whom they dis-

agree and by pitting one group against another. We need a return to moderation, tolerance, responsibility, and compassion so that nothing approaching the Holocaust and the hatred which fostered it will ever be allowed to again scar humanity in such a way.

It is appropriate to take the time to not only celebrate V-E Day and reflect upon the roots of what led to World War II, but to also remember the selfless heroism of the 15 million Americans and the millions of other Allied servicemen who fought valiantly to preserve the democratic ideals that we so cherish. All risked their lives, and, sadly, some 407,000 Americans gave their lives to defend those ideals and the individual freedom and human rights upon which they are based.

Fifty years after V-E Day, the light of history has shone brightly on the complex and harrowing events of World War II. Much of what has been revealed makes us shudder, and we would just as soon it not be illuminated. But only by looking can we learn, and as each year passes, we realize more fully just how much we owe our veterans for their patriotism, bravery, and sacrifice in serving on the battlefields of Europe during World War II.

JENA BAND OF THE CHOCTAW INDIANS

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, over 90 years ago, a small poverty ridden community of Choctaw Indians who lived in the area around Jena, LA, walked for 9 months from their homes to Muskogee, OK, to testify before the Dawes Commission. Although that commission determined that the Jena Band were full-blooded native American Indians, entitled to land and services, lands were not yet ready for allotment. Consequently, the Jena Band returned to Louisiana empty-handed. Soon thereafter they were told by letter that they could claim such lands and benefits—but only if they returned to Oklahoma within 4½ months. This was impossible for them, they did not return, and therefore received no land or benefits to which they were rightfully entitled.

This story of promised benefits, land, and services has been repeated throughout the last 90 years. Each time the Jena Band has come close to receiving the recognition they deserve, some additional obstacle has been thrown in their way. Yet, despite this long history of broken promises and neglect the Jena have maintained their identity, their dignity, and their hope that the Federal Government will at long last live up to the commitments made to them so long ago in Muskogee.

On May 18, 1995, the Jena Band will finally celebrate the arrival of justice as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior, Ada Deer, signs the documents establishing a government-to-government relationship between the United States of America and the Jena Band of the Choctaw.

Mr. President, I have known the Jena through their chief, Jerry Jackson, as we have struggled together for many years to gain their rightful recognition. The Jena are proud of their heritage and of their community. I look forward to seeing the strengthening of their tribe and their cooperation with the surrounding communities in the years to come, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this long-awaited event.

CARE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, during this year 1995 we are commemorating many anniversaries of the last days of World War II—of terrible battles, of the liberation of concentration camps with their unspeakable crimes against humanity, and of the final victories—but I rise today to congratulate one of the great humanitarian organizations that was born in the ashes of that great war.

CARE begins the celebration of its 50th year today, on the anniversary of the day when the first CARE package arrived in France. A coalition of organizations and individual Americans founded CARE—the Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe—on November 27, 1945, and the first CARE package was received in France on the following May 11. They set out to create a large and efficient distribution network, because they knew the huge scope of the needs in a Europe devastated by a long and destructive war.

That package was the beginning of the largest person-to-person relief effort of this century—perhaps of any century. Millions of Americans sent more than 100 million CARE packages of food, clothing, medicine, and other relief supplies to war survivors in desperate need. CARE packages provided the first food some Holocaust victims received after being released from the camps. Later, CARE packages brought West Berliners their first food after the 1949 blockade.

CARE was a unique American phenomenon—highly individual, extremely generous, idealistic and—against all odds—tremendously successful. Germans, Italians, and Japanese remember how stunned they were to receive gifts from people with whom they had been at war only a few months before. CARE packages not only eased the suffering of survivors trying to rebuild their lives and their countries, but helped to build the bridges between former enemies that made possible a more lasting peace.

Every single American President has been involved in the relief effort since President Harry Truman who sent the first 100 CARE packages to the bombed-out town of Le Havre, France. American cities and towns had CARE package drives, businesses put up displays encouraging people to send CARE packages, Hollywood stars, including Bob Hope, Gregory Peck, Marlene