

first year as leader of a democratic, nonracial South Africa.

Today we celebrate the progress that has been made in bettering the lives of African children. But today also stands as a challenge to all of us to continue efforts to improve education and basic health care for all the children of Africa. Their future is the hope for the entire African Continent.●

COMMEMORATING THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, today marks the 19th anniversary of the Soweto massacre where more than 100 black South African students—children—were killed while protesting against the tyranny of South African apartheid. These children are martyrs to the cause of freedom and justice. Their sacrifices, along with those of many others, contributed to a far brighter future in South Africa than could have been foreseen at that time. And so, June 16 has been designated by the Organization of African Unity as the "Day of the African Child." On this day, we not only mark the past, but we should also commit ourselves to creating a brighter future for the children of Africa.

Our commemoration of the children of Soweto should be solemn, as we reflect on the loss of far too many African children to conflict and war, to disease, to famine, and to the neglect of a world that often cares more about amassing material wealth than about ensuring the health and well-being of all of its children. An African child deserves no less than any other child born anywhere else in the world. They deserve to be cared for, to be protected, to have adequate food, shelter, and health care, to have safe drinking water, to be educated, and to live in a peaceful world. Yet, a child born in sub-Saharan Africa has a life expectancy 20 years shorter than a child born in an industrialized country. An African child is 8 times less likely to survive infancy and 10 times less likely to survive beyond 5 years old than a child in an industrialized country. The mother of an African child is 29 times more likely to die in childbirth than the mother of a child in the industrialized country. As many as 30 percent of African children suffer from malnutrition. Only 45 percent of Africans have access to safe drinking water.

Thanks to U.S. assistance, there has been progress in reducing the under-5 mortality rate, increasing child immunizations and increasing life expectancy over the last 30 years. But clearly, there is much work to be done. As we commemorate the Day of the African Child let us also recognize the very positive affect that our foreign assistance has on improving the prospects for Africa's children to have healthy, productive lives—to have no less than what we would want for our own children.

The theme of this year's observance is "Children in Armed Conflict." War has a devastating affect on children. Prior to 1945, most of the victims of war were soldiers. In the 160 wars and conflicts since 1945, 80 percent of the dead and wounded have been civilians—most of them women and children. The effect of armed conflict on African women and children has been particularly devastating. Ninety-two percent of the war-related deaths in Africa are women and children. In the Sudanese war, children die at 14 times the rate of government and guerrilla soldiers combined. Most often, in conflict zones children die as a result of the dispersal that leads to malnutrition and disease. Child mortality rates are highest in those countries that are ravaged by armed conflicts. As we observe the Day of the African Child let us also commit ourselves to playing whatever positive role we can through diplomacy, support for U.N. peacekeeping operations, or whatever measures appropriate to help resolve those conflicts that still remain on the African Continent. There has been great progress in ending conflicts on the African Continent over the last decade. Much more has to be done.

I join today with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Children's Fund and all those who care about the health and well-being of all the world's children in recognizing June 16 as the Day of the African Child. I salute the U.S. Committee for UNICEF for its hard work in organizing today's celebration. Let us resolve to do all that we can to provide hope for Africa's children that they may have the kind of future that each of us wants for our own children.

Mr. President, on the topic of aid to Africa, I would like to share with my colleagues a letter I received from a young lady, Miss Julie Haronik, from Moline, IL. Julie is 13 years old and she wrote to me asking that we maintain the Development Fund for Africa.

I have received many letters supporting foreign aid to Africa over the last month. Julie's letter demonstrated how a child can sometimes be wiser, more caring, and more compassionate than many adults far older than herself. Among Julie's reasons for supporting aid to Africa, she says that, "If you cut off aid some projects in Africa that have been started recently may fall apart without aid [before] they can sustain themselves." In the last paragraph of Julie's letter she writes:

You may wonder why a thirteen year old would be concerned about Africa. One reason is that I want society to be on equal terms with all people when I am an adult. Another reason is that if America ever needed an African resource I would hope Africa would help us in our time of need. I also hope for world peace which can be achieved only through kindness, recognizing fellow humans, and helping those in need.

I am so proud of this young lady both for her world outlook and compassion for others, and for her willingness to write and participate in public debate

on the political issues of the day. Mr. President, I ask that the full text of the letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

MOLINE, IL.

Senator PAUL SIMON,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SIMON: Although you may not realize it Africa has come a long way, with outside aid. If you cut off aid some projects in Africa that have been started recently may fall part without aid until they can sustain themselves. Africa still has a way to go, but it is a place of hope. Please don't cut off aid to the Development Fund for Africa!

The United States of America has a duty to itself and the rest of the world. That duty is to help all people whether they can repay debts or not. One tenth of one percent of the budget is not very much money to give to those in need. Africa doesn't just take aid from people it has been its own resources, which are scarce. The government's duty is to make sure Africa does not lose all aid, but develop enough not to need it.

You may wonder why a thirteen year old would be concerned about Africa. One reason is that I want society to be on equal terms with all people when I am an adult. Another reason is that if America ever needed African resources I would hope Africa would help us in our time of need. I also hope for world peace which can be achieved only through kindness, recognizing fellow humans, and helping those in need. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

JULIE HARONIK.●

CIVIC EDUCATION GATHERING IN PRAGUE

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, during the first few days of June, one of the largest international gatherings of educators and representatives of the public and private sectors supporting civic education met in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Four hundred and twenty-five representatives from 52 nations participated.

Entitled CIVITAS@PRAGUE.1995, the conference was sponsored by 36 civic education organizations from North America, Western and Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union.

A declaration was adopted by CIVITAS participants that asserts the essential importance of civic education for developing the support required for the establishment and maintenance of stable democratic institutions. Constitutional democracies must ultimately rely upon citizens and leaders possessing a reasoned commitment to those fundamental values and principles which enable them to flourish. Stable democracies, in turn, are vital for economic development, national security, and for overcoming destructive religious and ethnic conflicts. The declaration also argues that civic education should have a more prominent place in the programs of all governments and international organizations.

American participation in the project was organized by a steering committee composed of representatives of the Center for Civic Education, American

Federation of Teachers, National Endowment for Democracy, Institute for Democracy in Eastern Europe, Mershon Center at Ohio State University, and the Social Studies Development Center at Indiana University. All these groups worked in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Information Agency.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this declaration and in giving greater recognition to the need to improve civic education for students in the United States and in other nations throughout the world.

The text of the CIVITAS declaration follows:

CIVIC EDUCATION—AN INTERNATIONAL
PRIORITY

On June 2-6, 1995, representatives from fifty-two countries met in Prague at one of the largest international meetings on civic education ever held. The following is a declaration adopted by the participants. A list of the individual signers is available on CIVNET.

The wave of change toward democracy and the open economy that swept the world at the beginning of this decade has slowed, and, in some respects, even turned around. Religious and ethnic intolerance; abuses of human rights; cynicism toward politics and government; corruption, crime and violence; ignorance, apathy and irresponsibility—all represent growing challenges to freedom, the marketplace, democratic government, and the rule of law.

All this makes clear how central knowledge, skills, and democratic values are to building and sustaining democratic societies that are respectful of human rights and cultural diversity. Once again, we see the importance of education which empowers citizens to participate competently and responsibly in their society.

Despite great differences in the more than fifty countries represented among us, we find many similarities in the challenges we face in our civic life. These challenges exist not only in the countries represented here; they also exist in other parts of the world, and in all aspects of social, economic, and political life. People involved in civic education have much to learn from one another.

It is time again to recognize the crucial role that civic education plays in many areas of concern to the international community: Shared democratic values, and institutions that reflect these values, are the necessary foundation for national and international security and stability; The breakup of Cold War blocs, while bringing much good, has also created openings for aggressive and undemocratic movements, even in the established democracies themselves; Civic development is an essential element in—not just a side effect of—economic development. Investments and guarantees made by private enterprise, governments, and international financial institutions will fail where political and legal systems fail, and where corruption and violence flourish.

The challenge of civic education is too great for educators alone. They need far greater cooperation from their own peoples, governments, and the international community.

We seek increased support for civic education—formal and informal—from the widest range of institutions and governments. In particular, we urge greater involvement in civic education by international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the European Union, the North Atlantic Assembly, the Organization for Secu-

rity and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations, UNESCO, and the World Bank.

We seek an active personal and electronic on-line-exchange (through CIVNET) of curricular concepts, teaching methods, study units, and evaluation programs for all elements of continuing education in civics, economics, and history.

We pledge ourselves to create and maintain a worldwide network that will make civic education a higher priority on the international agenda.●

THE 31ST CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION OF THE UNITED AUTO
WORKERS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the United Auto Workers are concluding their 31st Constitutional Convention today in Anaheim, CA. This is a momentous occasion, marking the end of one era and the beginning of another for one of the world's most important labor organizations. Owen Bieber, who has held the presidency for the past 12 years, has retired and has handed over his duties to Stephen Yokich, the incoming president. Each of these leaders, with over 75 years of service to the UAW between them, has made it his life's work to fight for workers' rights both in the United States and around the world. They carry on an outstanding tradition of progressive union leadership that was established by the late Walter Reuther and continued by Leonard Woodcock and Douglas Fraser.

Owen Bieber has dedicated more than 45 years of his life to promoting fair labor standards. Bieber went to work right after high school bending wire for car seats at the McNerney Spring and Wire Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1948, he became a member of UAW Local 687, thus beginning a journey that would see him rise to the highest level of the organization. Bieber was quickly voted in to several leadership positions and in 1956, he was elected president of Local 687. Bieber served as president of the local until 1961, when he was appointed to be a staff representative for UAW Region 1D. He remained with UAW Region 1D for the next 20 years. He was elected regional director in 1974, and reelected in 1977. In 1980, delegates to the Union's 26th Constitutional Convention elected him to be an international vice-president and he then took charge of the UAW's largest department—General Motors. His final step to the presidency of the UAW came at the 27th Constitutional Convention in Dallas in 1983. Since then, he has been reelected every 3 years, with his fourth and final term beginning in 1992.

Owen Bieber has always been committed to the belief that in order for U.S. industry to be successful, there must be a strong partnership between management and labor. As UAW president, Bieber's strategy of building new cooperation with the auto companies laid the foundation for future success. It is this strategy that has allowed the U.S. auto industry to bounce back and once again lead the world. Bieber has

worked to increase security for union members while at the same time helping improve the quality of both work and work life in the plants. Bieber has focused the union on efforts to raise wages, protect jobs, strengthen work place safety and ensure fully paid health care. Under Bieber's leadership, the UAW established and fostered successful bargaining relationships with Japanese manufacturers. Bieber also expanded membership in the UAW to include workers in the media, academia, and government.

Owen Bieber has also expressed a strong commitment to civil and human rights, both at home and abroad. During his tenure as president, the world saw workers win their basic rights in countries such as Poland and South Africa. These struggles were strongly supported by the UAW. In 1986, Bieber negotiated on behalf of South African workers who were jailed without being charged with a crime. A high point of his career came in 1990, when Bieber had the opportunity to escort recently freed Nelson Mandela through Ford Motor Company's Rouge plant.

Throughout the years, Bieber has always remained committed to his local community. He has also been a strong booster of the city of Detroit, where the union is headquartered. His broad civic involvement has included such organizations as the NAACP and the United Way.

Owen Bieber has always shown the highest regard and respect for the American worker. This giant of a man has also been a booming voice for a tough and fair American trade policy. It is only fitting that now, as he retires, we have an administration that is willing to stand up for American manufacturers and American workers and to insist that foreign markets are as open to our products as our markets are to imports.

The new president, Stephen Yokich, has spent the past three decades working on behalf of labor. The UAW has always meant a great deal to Yokich and his family. Both of Yokich's parents and grandfathers were members of the UAW. Yokich has been one the UAW's strongest negotiators. Yokich has been in charge of UAW's General Motors Department since 1989. He was on hand to oversee the downsizing of GM's work force. Yokich's handling of the situation enabled more workers to keep their jobs and has ultimately led to a more cooperative relationship between the UAW and GM. One of his main responsibilities in the near future will be to increase UAW membership, a task that will benefit from his great personal energy.

It is heartening to see that the leadership of one of the world's most important labor organizations will remain in able hands. I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating these two outstanding leaders for the extraordinary work they have done on behalf of our Nation's workers and for their efforts to make our automobile