

We will soon enter into our third century as a nation.

Whether we build in that third century a civilization we can be proud of depends on whether we can arrive at a common conception of what that civilization might stand for or what it might do superbly well.

It really depends on us and our children. The mantle of leadership has fallen on our shoulders. So let's make this event more than just a dinner and keynote speech, let's allow it to be the first building block in overcoming this barrier of racism.

Thank you.●

HONORING RICH STEELE OF RICHLAND, WA

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on November 17, 1995, Richard Steele of Richland, WA, was presented with an Environmental Hero Award by the Washington Environmental Council for spearheading the effort to save the Hanford Reach, the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River. I prepared the following statement for the event and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

Rich Steele is a man with a mission.

In fact, Rich Steele is something of a missionary in the crusade to protect the Hanford Reach—the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River and a sanctuary for one of the strongest salmon runs left in the Northwest.

Rich has labored for 30 years to protect the Reach. But he is not your average environmentalist. Rich was brought up the hard way in the Tri-Cities; worked construction and other jobs until joining the workforce at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, where he became one of the site's top technicians. As an avid hunter and fisher, Rich came to love the River and became its chief advocate.

His call to this mission came in the mid-sixties, when the Reach was threatened by the Ben Franklin Dam proposal. Rich organized the Columbia River Conservation League in 1967, coordinating successful local opposition to the dam and its powerful backers. He revived the CRCL in the 1980s to block a dredging proposal for the Reach. All the while, Rich has preached the virtues of the Reach—its clear waters and fabulously productive spawning areas, its rich human history, its abundant wildlife, its majestic White Bluffs and soul-restoring solitude.

On his own time and at considerable personal expense, Rich has led hundreds of pilgrimages down the Reach, making converts among local citizens, the national media, and elected officials. After touring the Reach with Rich last summer, I am among those who believe it deserves the highest level of permanent protection we can give it.

Working closely with other long-time advocates like Jack de Yonge, a dedicated group of local conservationists, and the Nature Conservancy, Rich has helped to popularize the Reach to the point that Wild and Scenic River designation enjoys strong support in the Tri-Cities. Despite opposition from some local politicians, we are developing legislation to protect the Reach that I believe will have a good chance of enactment—perhaps even in this Congress.

None of this would be possible without Rich Steele's inspired leadership, passionate activism, and three decades of hard work. Rich has devoted his life to saving the Reach, and it is fitting that he be honored as an environmental hero. ●

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEPHEN ORLOFSKY ON HIS CONFIRMA- TION TO BE A JUDGE ON THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT OF NEW JERSEY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on February 5, 1996, Steve Orlofsky will take the oath of office as a Federal District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey.

I had the high honor and privilege of recommending Mr. Orlofsky to President Clinton last year, and I want to take just a few moments of the Senate's time to explain why I am so proud of him, and why I know he will make such an outstanding judge.

Mr. President, let me begin by noting that when Steve is sworn in, he will replace Judge John R. Gerry on the bench. Judge Gerry was revered in New Jersey, and was widely known as a distinguished legal scholar, skilled administrator, and a compassionate, thoughtful judge. He was dedicated to dispensing justice, and he had a reputation for always acting with great fairness.

I mention this because Judge Gerry was Steve Orlofsky's mentor and role model when Steve served as a U.S. magistrate in his court. They maintained a close relationship over the years, even after Steve went into private practice.

Mr. President, I spoke with Judge Gerry shortly before his death, and he had one request: that I recommend Steve to replace him on the New Jersey District bench.

Judge Gerry's shoes will be hard to fill, but I am confident that Steve Orlofsky will be a worthy successor.

Mr. President, Steve Orlofsky is a man of integrity, with a commitment to justice and the law, a judicious temperament, a strong intellect and proven legal skills.

He meets the highest standards of excellence and will enhance the quality of justice in New Jersey.

In reviewing his candidacy, the American Bar Association unanimously conferred Steve with a "well qualified" rating—the highest rating possible. This consensus speaks to his superb qualifications.

Steve has been a widely respected attorney in private practice, and he has extensive experience in Federal litigation. He previously served as a magistrate judge in the New Jersey Federal District Court from 1976 to 1980. He also has served in leadership roles in his county and State bar associations, and has served his community by providing pro bono legal services.

In addition, he has published in legal journals and served as a lecturer in ongoing legal education courses.

Mr. President, Steve Orlofsky has the capacity to be an outstanding Federal judge not only because of his thorough knowledge of the law, but also because of his commitment to justice. He will offer more than extensive legal experience. He has good judgment, solid values, and sensitivity to moral and ethical issues.

Steve Orlofsky has all of the personal attributes and professional qualifications one could wish for in a judge, and then some.

So, Mr. President, I want to again congratulate Steve on his appointment, and wish him all the best in his new position. I am very proud to have recommended him to President Clinton. I hope he will serve on our district court for many years. I know he will serve with distinction, dispensing justice to each person who appears before him with compassion, fairness, and wisdom.●

SENIOR CITIZENS HOUSING SAFETY ACT

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, on January 23, 1996, the Senate passed S. 1494, a bill extending several housing programs through October 1, 1996. I am pleased the Senate included in this bill language I developed in my legislation, S. 247, the Senior Citizens Safety Act of 1995. I am hopeful that the President will match the tough anti-crime rhetoric conveyed in his State of the Union Address, and sign this legislation when it arrives on his desk.

This legislation will end the terror that, unfortunately, runs rampant throughout many elderly housing projects. It offers both local public housing facilities [PHA] and local property owners with the power to screen out and evict from public and assisted housing persons who illegally use drugs and whose abuse of alcohol is a risk to other tenants.

In my home State of New Hampshire, most people are still afforded the luxury of not having to lock their front doors before turning in for the evening. However, many elderly residents of public housing facilities in my State and across America have been forced to not only lock their front doors, but are literally being held prisoner in their own homes. I believe this is outrageous. I have received numerous complaints from residents of elderly housing facilities throughout New Hampshire who are worried about their personal safety in housing specifically reserved for them.

While community policing has gone a long way toward making many of America's neighborhoods safe for its elderly residents. No longer will people residing in public housing facilities be allowed to harass, shake down, or intimidate their elderly neighbors. Our elderly population remains vulnerable, and I am pleased the Senate has taken this action which will help protect them.

Our housing laws must protect elderly residents. Currently, non-elderly persons, considered disabled because of past drug and alcohol abuse problems, are eligible to live in housing designated for the elderly. This mixing of populations may have filled up the housing projects across the country, but it has opened a Pandora's box of trouble. Simply put, Young, recovering

alcoholics and drug addicts are not comparable with elderly persons. Many of these young people hold all night, loud parties, shake down many of the elderly residents for money, sell drugs within the housing facility, and generally disturb the right to the peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants.

This legislation, by no means, circumvents the current housing eviction procedure. It simply mandates that these individuals with patterns of drug and alcohol abuse be evicted after one incident if it is determined by the local PHA that their behavior threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants.

This legislation will help to restore order in housing projects throughout the country. It requires tenants to embrace personal responsibility by mandating tenants to sign a statement which says no person who will be occupying the unit set aside for the elderly will illegally use a controlled substance or abuse alcohol in any way. Additionally, the bill will allow the local PHA to evict those persons who continuously raise havoc within these housing projects.

I want to commend the Senate for its action in passing this important legislation. It will make our public housing facilities safe for our most vulnerable citizens, the elderly.●

HON. BENJAMIN H. LOGAN II

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Benjamin H. Logan II, judge of the 61st District Court of the city of Grand Rapids, MI. In so doing, I join with the members of his community who are honoring Judge Logan on Saturday, February 3, 1996, with the 13th annual Giant Among Giants Award.

This award will be presented to Judge Logan at the 14th annual Giants Banquet and Awards celebration that will be held on the Grand Rapids Community College campus in the Gerald R. Ford Field House. This celebration is sponsored by the college and a consortium of African-American organizations with the purpose of raising the awareness of the Greater Grand Rapids citizenry of the contributions African-American individuals, organizations, and businesses have made to the history, continuous growth, and progress of metropolitan Grand Rapids.

The ceremony honors 14 individuals for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the community. Each of the 12 Giant awards presented at the event is named after local African-American individuals who have given long-term service in their professional areas and dedication to the Grand Rapids community as a whole.

The 13th award is the Giant Among Giants Award. The recipients of this unique award are honored not only for their work in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, but also for reaching out

to other cities and States in their professional areas. This year, the Giant Among Giants Award will be presented to the Honorable Benjamin H. Logan II.

Ben has been a community-oriented person throughout his life. He has generously contributed both his time and talents to many organizations including the Urban League, Boy Scouts of America, NAACP, Lions Club, YMCA, U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society, and countless others.

In 1988 Judge Logan, in a historic write-in election, became the first African-American judge of the 61st District Court in Grand Rapids. He has been victorious in every subsequent election. He is a member of the Michigan Black Judges Association and national chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar.

Serving his country, church, and community throughout his life, Benjamin H. Logan II has been an example to others and an embodiment of the values that the Giant Among Giants Award represents. Mr. President I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate join me in extending our congratulations to Judge Logan upon receiving this prestigious award.

GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue of extreme importance to my State of North Dakota and to this Nation's energy security.

The issue is one currently before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC], and involves the fate of a unique energy project in North Dakota—the Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant located near Beulah, ND. The gasification plant converts abundant lignite coal into clean-burning synthetic natural gas. It is the only commercial-scale plant of its kind that produces synthetic natural gas from coal in the world.

FERC must decide whether to approve certain negotiated settlement agreements between Dakota Gasification Company [DGC], owner of the synfuels plant, and three interstate pipeline companies which purchase the synthetic natural gas produced by the plant. Additionally, DGC reached an agreement with the Department of Energy [DOE] which is contingent on FERC approval of the agreements between DGC and the pipelines.

Late last month, an administrative law judge at FERC issued a decision which could have the impact of closing the project. The judge invalidated three of the four settlements between DGC and the pipelines. Ironically, the fourth was approved by FERC in January 1995—1 year ago.

Mr. President, I hope the FERC commissioners weigh very carefully the impact this judge's decision will have on the State of North Dakota, the DOE, and our national energy goals. Closing the synfuels plant would not

serve our national energy interests, and would create a serious setback in this country's search for energy independence.

The \$2 billion Great Plains Gasification Plant was constructed in the early 1980's after DOE guaranteed a \$1.5 billion loan for construction of the plant. The DOE loan was made pursuant to the Federal Nonnuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974. Great Plains is the only project operating today developed pursuant to the act. Additionally, Great Plains is the only project built as a result of the Government's attempts in the late 1970's and early 1980's to demonstrate our ability to achieve energy independence.

The synfuels plant was only made possible as a result of the issuance by FERC of its opinion 119 which approved the gas purchase agreements between Great Plains and the four pipeline purchasers. As approved by opinion 119, these gas purchase agreements provide for the sale of synthetic natural gas at prices established by a formula set out in the agreements. In issuing the \$1.5 billion loan guarantee, DOE relied on FERC's opinion 119 and the reasonable assumption FERC would stand behind its commitment.

Unfortunately, the original project sponsors abandoned the project after it was completed in 1985 in response to sudden changes in global energy prices. DOE assumed operation of the plant, and eventually secured ownership through foreclosure. In 1988, DOE sold the facility to DGC, a subsidiary of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in my State. DOE selected Basin over other bidders because of its commitment to the long-term operation of the project.

When Congress authorized DOE to sell the synfuels plant, Congress indicated to the Department that a commitment to the long-term operation of the plant was an important criteria in evaluating bids for the project. In fact, the conference report accompanying Public Law 100-202 states:

The managers agree that the Department of Energy should place higher priority on the continued long-term operation of the Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant as part of its divestiture activity. Continued long-term operation is needed to avoid disruptions to the local economy, capture the benefits associated with extended Plant operations and collect emission reduction technology data.

That sale also continued the Department's interest in the long-term operation of the plant by including a profit-sharing arrangement between DGC and DOE for the profits from the sale of synthetic natural gas. DGC and DOE reasonably assumed FERC would continue to stand behind opinion 119 when they negotiated the sale of the plant.

Following DGC's acquisition of the project, disputes arose regarding the pricing, output, and transportation provisions of the gas purchase agreements. As a result, DGC and DOE filed suit against the pipelines in 1990. Before the dispute went to trial, DOE,