

while in public office and are still able to collect generous pensions. This is simply not right.

The bipartisan legislation we are introducing today will put an end to this. Judges, Members of Congress and the President will forfeit their pension benefits if they commit felonies while in public office. The list of felonies which would result in a loss of pension are directly related to the performance of official duties. Among the offenses listed in the bill are bribery and illegal gratuities, improper representation before the government, violation of antilobbying restrictions, false claims and fraud, abuse of the electoral process, conspiracy to defraud the United States, and perjury.

Public service is both an honor and a privilege. It represents a sacred trust and thus we ought to have harsh penalties for those who breach that trust. Those who violate this trust while serving in public office should not be entitled to their pensions. The taxpayers have helped finance these pensions. At a minimum, they are owed this kind of accountability.

Finally, I wish to thank Senators GREGG and NICKLES for their leadership and support on this issue. Senators GREGG, NICKLES and I had been working on a solution to this issue and I am confident that this legislation is the appropriate response. I believe this is a problem in need of bipartisan attention. Greater accountability will ultimately produce public greater confidence in our three branches of government.●

MEMORIAL DAY 1996: SIMPLE TRUTHS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to mention an upcoming, special American holiday, Memorial Day.

Last year, in honor of Father's Day, I read to you a letter from a fellow New Mexican, Chuck Everett. Mr. Everett originally wrote that letter while he was serving in Korea to his father who was back home in the United States.

In that letter, a younger Chuck Everett talked about certain simple truths—a son's longing to be with his dad on Father's Day; a soldier's patriotism; and hope for the future. The young soldier dedicated that particular day to fathers, the support of free will, free speech, freedom from fear, freedom of religion, and freedom of thought.

Today, in recognition of Memorial Day, I want to share with the Senate and the American people some more insightful thoughts by Mr. Everett. His poem, entitled "Simple Truths," serves as a good reminder to those of us who serve in this esteemed Chamber, as well as to all Americans, that while our country derives much strength from its diversity, we Americans also share basic ideals—ideals for which many men and women have given their lives. As the country remembers those brave Americans who fought for the United States, I submit that we are a

nation founded on ideas, notably the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are simple truths to be cherished and protected for future generations.

In memory of those who were killed or are still considered to be missing in action, I respectfully ask that the text of Mr. Everett's poem be printed in the RECORD.

The poem follows:

SIMPLE TRUTHS

Simple truths are emotions from the heart
To state those feelings we wish to share
With those with whom we do not stand apart
And sharing those ideals about which we care.

We ever strive to serve our God and country,
A nation born to hear the bells of freedom ring.

Bound not by the shackles of fear and
affrontry.
But living free of oppression by dictator or king.

We dedicate our lives to the support of democracy.

Building a nation with simple truths in mind.

Glorified in living free from any aristocracy,
Striving for liberty and justice for all mankind.

Let our mission be to keep this country free,
To stand tall for what we feel is right or wrong,

Embracing ourselves in the principles of liberty

And always being on the alert and ever so strong.—C. Everett.●

WAYLAND V.F.W. POST 7581

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this weekend America honors its veterans through Memorial Day activities across the country. It is a time when we thank our veterans for their service and remember those we have lost. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7581 in Wayland, MI, will be celebrating Memorial Day this year as it does each year. However, this year will be especially significant because it marks the 50th anniversary of the post.

Wayland VFW Post 7581 was chartered at a ceremony in the Wayland High School gym on June 10, 1946, with 43 members. In 1949, a Ladies Auxiliary to the post was instituted. VFW Post 7581 dedicated its headquarters on June 10, 1956. Most of the work on the building was done by the members of the Post. Over the years, post membership has grown dramatically. The post now maintains 289 members, including 74 life members.

During its 50 years, the post has dedicated its efforts to providing services for the Wayland community, including: Lite-a-Hike campaigns, blood banks, little league baseball, polio dances and the donation of flags to local schools. Last winter, the post made national news for helping stranded motorists during the blizzard. The post also conducts military funerals, participates in Memorial Day activities and assists veterans submitting claims to the Veterans' Administration.

Mr. President, the members of Wayland VFW Post 7581 have not only

proudly served our country in military service, but they continue to serve through their commitment to community. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring the veterans of VFW. Post 7581 and congratulating them on their 50 years of service to the community of Wayland, MI.●

JANET RENO'S WORDS OF WISDOM

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, we have a lot to be proud of in our country and we have many great role models. One role model, who recently visited my home state and spoke to the graduates of the University of South Carolina, is Janet Reno.

Janet Reno is our country's first female Attorney General and has excelled in the role. She is a dedicated, top-flight public servant. And indeed, that was also her reputation in Florida, where President Clinton plucked her in 1993 from her role as the State's attorney for Dade County. Janet Reno was known in Dade County as a tough, front-line crime fighter and she devoted herself to making communities safer, keeping children out of trouble, reducing domestic violence and helping families. She also targeted career criminals, dangerous offenders and drug traffickers, promising strict and certain sentences that put them away and kept them away.

Janet Reno grew up in Florida and worked her way through Cornell University. She wanted to pursue a law degree but was told that "woman didn't become lawyers." She ignored the advice and became one of only 16 women in a class of 565 students to enroll in Harvard Law School in 1960. When she graduated, people said, "No one will hire a woman lawyer." She proved them wrong, of course. Janet Reno was and is a trail-blazer.

In her speech to the USC graduates, Janet Reno talked about the frustrations that faced her and her predecessors as Attorney General. She said:

There is no vaccination for crime, as there is for polio. The only thing we have is hard work, seven days a week, parents raising children right, police walking the beat every single night, and prosecutors putting criminals behind bars, one by one. Our problems are complex and the answers rarely simple.

Janet Reno encouraged the graduates avoid the deadly sins of our public life: extremism, cynicism and defeatism. Her advice is sound and I think we could all benefit from it. I ask that her address be printed in the RECORD.

The address follows:

SPRING COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

I am honored to share this day with you. It is so wonderful to look out to see so many who have worked so hard to obtain their diploma today. I especially want to say hello to my fellow chemistry majors. In 1960, I earned my chemistry degree from Cornell University. So, to you parents who worry that your graduating sons and daughters still lack a clear career goal, I suggest, give them a little more time; you never know what might happen.

Since my graduation in 1960, so many things in America have changed for the better. In 1960, the Iron Curtain divided the world between freedom and dictatorship. Just two weeks ago I walked the streets of Budapest along side the free people of Hungary, and I talked with Western Europeans and Eastern Europeans alike about our common fight against crime. In 1960, even after the Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation, much of America was still divided into two nations, black and white. But in the civil rights efforts that soon followed, our nation kept the promises the founding fathers made and finally made equality the law of the land.

In 1960 when I graduated from college, people told me a woman couldn't go to law school, and when I graduated from law school, people told me law firms won't hire you. Thirty years later, no one ever told me I couldn't be Attorney General. You are graduating into an amazing era. In 1960, nobody had ever heard of the Internet, no one had been to the moon. The CAT scan was not invented until 1973. But even though our world is more safe and our country is more just and new technologies are changing our lives, nobody would say that we are a nation without serious, serious challenges. Many of these challenges seem so stubborn and unyielding, such as violent crime, homelessness, and poverty. Others seem complex and inscrutable, like the international economy and the spread of AIDS. And others just seem overwhelming, like the fear of terrorism or environmental catastrophe. But America is a nation of optimists and problem solvers. Each generation looks to its children to keep our society moving and to make life better. After the parties and the vacations and the graduate degrees yet to come, America will look to you for help. For no matter where you go and what you do, you can make a difference.

That's what I would like to talk about today. For in these last 30 years, too many people of goodwill have looked at these very hard problems and started throwing up their hands and turning away. They are getting caught up in the three deadly sins of our public life: extremism, cynicism, and defeatism.

The first great threat to our optimistic spirit is extremism, for it blinds us to the tough, tough choices we all confront when we wrestle with the difficult problems of today. The historian Arthur Schlesinger once observed that America's progress and freedom were fueled by what he called "the vital center in American politics." He meant a place where men and women of reason and goodwill could meet regardless of their political party affiliation, a place to hash out their differences and debate the problems of the day. A lively debate to be sure, sometimes even unruly, but one carried out on common terms with respect for the other person. The vital center has always been a place where people might be divided in their approach to solving a problem, but where they were united, as Americans, in their determination to act reasonably and to see the virtue in other points of view. In short, the politics of the vital center means using democracy as a process of working together to find solutions that attack problems with progress. Slow sometimes, terribly slow and exhausting to be sure, but always in the American tradition of reforms that are not perfect, but take us one step forward, one important step forward.

Today I fear many Americans are forgetting about the vital center. Too often in today's politics, on all sides, people are confronting tough problems and retreating to extremes and to simple solutions instead of embracing the complexity that problem solv-

ing always demands and that democracy requires. You may not like everything government does, I know I don't, but the alternative is not to throw up your hands or turn to violence. What we must do is to sit down together as reasonable people and make our government do what is right and stop doing what may be wrong-headed or wasteful. Extremism wants to sprint when the race is really a marathon. Extremism wants to escape the complexity of democracy and the staggering diversity of human nature, but it never can. Extremism argues that problems are easy to solve but if they were, we would have licked them a long, long time ago.

As Attorney General, I deal with problems that frustrated previous Attorney Generals for years, such as crime, terrorism and domestic violence. There is no vaccination for crime, as there is for polio. The only thing we have is hard work seven days a week, parents raising children right, police walking the beat every single night, and prosecutors putting criminals behind bars, one by one. We're not a bumper sticker away from solving terrorism. We have to be eternally vigilant, close our borders to those who threaten us and work slowly and patiently for peace in the lands where foreign terrorists come from, just as we must fight the hatred and the paranoia that fuels domestic terrorism. There is no sound byte that can make domestic violence go away. We have to stop abusers one by one and let them know that there is never an excuse for hitting someone you love. We have to build shelters one at a time to give victims a safe place away from the abuse, and we have to help victims rebuild their lives slowly and steadily.

The vital center knows that problems are complicated and that answers are rarely simple. I hope that in your lives you will choose the course of leadership, not partisanship. Think twice when someone has a simple answer. Remember that so many of our problems took decades to get where they are and that no amount of sloganeering can fix them overnight. And don't ever forget to listen. For I have learned so much when I have listened to the people with whom I have disagreed. Sometimes I have changed my mind. Sometimes I have changed theirs.

The second great threat to our nation's optimistic spirit is cynicism. Maybe you have faced it already. The cynic knows so much about what is wrong and why it can't be fixed. He can tell you which baseball players strike out the most and why planes and stock markets crash. She can tell you which public figures were caught doing something wrong, why the current peace negotiations are doomed, and why so many marriages end in divorce. It may be a beautiful South Carolina day, but the cynic knows it is going to rain someday. Of course, cynicism never happens by itself, it always builds on genuine problems and disasters. Watergate and other scandals convinced millions of Americans that government was permanently broken and that everyone in public life was some sort of alien from ordinary American life, that they might as well have landed in a spaceship. In fact, you can look at any of our institutions and you can find a scandal, and cynics told you so. Sports heroes, police officers, business leaders, doctors, ministers, teachers and politicians—everyone can point to people in all walks of life who have fallen below society's standards. We can use a funny line to dismiss politicians or teachers or Wall Street bankers, but that's the easy way out and after we do, what's different? Nothing, except that fewer good people are willing to work to make our government better, care for the helpless amongst us, or build a business that puts its customers needs first.

At the very least, if you're finding yourself falling prey to cynicism, consider its cousin,

skepticism. At least the skeptic has an open mind. The skeptic sees all the same problems and asks all the same questions, but is willing to let the answer be good or bad. And if you are a recovering cynic, and you have made it back to skepticism, why not just take the final step and become an idealist in the best American tradition? And I don't mean for a minute that you should be naive. The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. talked about the need for all of us to have a tough mind and a tender heart. I can tell you that no one can come to Washington and ever hope to do well if she does not start the morning by asking tough questions and end the day getting real answers. This nation was founded by idealists with tough minds and with tender hearts, and they formed a government designed to check the worst in human nature just as they risked their lives to found a country that cherished freedom and liberty over oppression. They took the hard way, and they made a difference.

A month ago, as the sun was setting before it rose again on Eastern morning, I was in Dover Delaware listening to President Clinton honor Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 32 other Americans who died in the plane crash in Bosnia. They were young and old, men and women, government workers and business leaders, but they were all there because they believed they could help a ravaged country heal from civil war. These 33 lives, said the President, show us the best of America. They are a stern rebuke to the cynicism that is all too familiar these days. He talked about how family after family told him how their loved ones were proud of their work and believed in what they were doing and believed they could make a difference.

Finally, I want to talk to you about the brother of extremism and cynicism, defeatism. Not everyone faces hopelessness, but no one is far away from someone who does. It may be across town where a family can't afford to pay the rent, or take the child to the doctor because they don't have a job. It may be in the next classroom where a student is convinced that he will never succeed, that no one cares, and that street crime will be the only way out of a hard life. It might be next door where a wife or child faces terror every night at the hands of an abusive spouse or parent. You may never find yourself at the bottom of life's pit, and, if you do, I pray that you have the energy and courage to get up and out. But you may know someone who has fallen, someone who doesn't even want to try because he is sure it won't make a difference.

I have been Attorney General now for three years, and my faith in the American people and their ability to deal with adversity has never been so strong. I have never been so sure that we can prevail against the causes of wrong in this world. I know we can defeat extremism and reclaim the vital center. I know we can defeat cynicism and seek what is good amidst all that is bad. I know we can defeat defeatism and teach those who have fallen to get up and to hope again. It won't be easy, and it will take a lot more than any speech could ever do, but I come here today because you are the future of this country.

I know you have the energy. I know you have the commitment. I know you can make the choice to stand for what is right and good in this world. If you choose public service you will be choosing one of the most rewarding and fulfilling careers our society can offer. But whether you are running a business, or teaching a class, prosecuting criminals, or raising a family, you can make a difference. In another spring time, 33 years ago, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

sat in a Birmingham jail, exhausted from years of seeking justice for all. He was dispirited, and even some of his fellow ministers were saying he should back off and wait for progress to happen on its own. He must struggle to keep cynicism out of his every thought, and sitting in that jail cell day after day, with progress coming slowly or not at all, he had to wonder why any man had a right to hope. But Reverend King made his choice, he began writing until his words filled the margins of a secondhand newspaper. The power of his choice flowed out of a pen and into the conscious of America. Today as you prepare to make your choices in life, I would like to close with a few of those words from Dr. King's letter from that Birmingham jail:

"We must come to see that human progress never tolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right."

I hope and pray that you will make your choice the choice of standing for what is right and good in this world. Thank you, congratulations, good luck, and God bless you.●

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the first popularly elected President of the Republic of China, Lee Teng-hui. All Americans congratulate the people of Taiwan for voting to complete their transition to democracy.

The election of President Lee on March 23, 1996, was the result of a 10-year transition which some have called a political miracle in twentieth-century Chinese politics, making Taiwan the first Chinese democracy.

President Lee and the people of Taiwan not only deserve congratulations for their transition to democracy, they also deserve our continued support. As President Lee and the Taiwanese emerge as a force for democracy, freedom and stabilization in East Asia, the United States should encourage their efforts to be represented and respected in international organizations and negotiations as well. The United States should also support and encourage constructive dialog and relations between Taiwan and Beijing.

This transition to democracy is especially significant because it took place against a background of mounting military intimidation, political threats, and diplomatic isolation from mainland China. Despite these intimidating threats, the people of Taiwan were not deterred from casting their ballots for freedom and liberty.

On May 20 in Taipei, President Lee delivered his inaugural address to the world as well as to the people of the Republic of China. He said:

My fellow countrymen: The doors have opened to full democracy, with all its vigor in full swing. Today, most deserving of a salute are the people of the Republic of China: A salute to them for being so resolute and

decisive when it comes to the future of the country. A salute to them for being so firm and determined when it comes to the defense of the democracy. A salute to them for being so calm and invincible when it comes to facing up to threats.

I join many in celebrating President Lee's triumph and the will of the people of the Republic of China to march boldly down the road of democracy for the first time in the history of the Chinese people.

Mr. President, I ask that the complete text of President Lee's inaugural address be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The text follows:

FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, My Fellow Countrymen, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today we are assembled here to jubilantly and solemnly celebrate the inauguration of the President and Vice President before all our compatriots. This gather marks not only the commencement of the ninth-term Presidency and Vice Presidency, but also a fresh beginning for the future of the country and the people.

Today, the 21.3 million people in this country formally march in the new era of "popular sovereignty."

Today, the Chinese people enter a new frontier full of hope.

Today, we in Taiwan firmly tell the world, with great pride and self-confidence:

We now stand on the apex of democratic reform and will remain there resolutely.

We have proved eloquently that the Chinese are capable of practicing democracy.

We have effectively expanded the influence of the international democratic camp and made significant contributions to the cause of freedom and democracy.

Therefore, this gathering of today does not celebrate the victory of any candidate, or any political party for that matter. It honors a triumph of democracy for the 21.3 million people. It salutes the confirmation of freedom and dignity—the most fundamental human values—in the Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu area.

My fellow countrymen: The doors have opened to full democracy, with all its vigor in full swing. Today, most deserving of a salute are the people of the Republic of China:

A salute to them for being so resolute and decisive when it comes to the future of the country.

A salute to them for being so firm and determined when it comes to the defense of democracy.

A salute to them for being so calm and invincible when it comes to facing up to threats.

From now on, the people as a whole, rather than any individual or any political party, will be invested with the ruling power of the nation. This is free will in full play, the fullest realization of "popular sovereignty," the real compliance with the will of Heaven and response to human wishes." the getting rid of the old and ringing in the new. All the glory belongs to the people.

My fellow countrymen: At this very fresh start of history, we pledge ourselves to launch the new era with a new determination and new deeds. This is our common homeland, and this is the fundamental support we draw upon in our struggle for survival. Fifty years of a common destiny forged in fortune and misfortune have united us all into a closely bound and interdependent community. The first-ever popular presidential election has reconfirmed our collec-

tive consciousness that we in Taiwan have to work together as one man.

How to make this land of ours more beautiful and how to make its inhabitants feel safer and live a happier and more harmonious life is the common responsibility of the 21.3 million people!

"Whatever the people desire is always in my heart." I am fully aware of the needs of the people and I pledge myself to do my best to deserve their trust. But no individual or political party can single-handedly decide a policy of far-reaching importance to the country. The government will soon invite opinion leaders and other representatives from various quarters to exchange views on major topics of future national development. The consensus that emerges from such meetings will launch the country into a new era.

The election is over, but the promises made during the campaign will be kept and fulfilled as soon as possible. Building a modern country entails the services of all available talents. I am convinced that only when upright, insightful, capable and experienced people, regardless of their political affiliation or social group, participate in the leadership of the government will political stability and national growth be ensured.

The times are changing, so is the social climate. Keeping in the old grooves while refraining from any innovation is doomed to failure. Political maneuvering has no place in political interaction, nor can self-interest have any role in deciding upon a political position. No quarrels can be started under the pretense of representing the will of the voters. A boycott certainly is not the equivalent of checks and balances. The ideal of democracy we are pursuing means not just effective checks and balances; it demands hand-in-hand cooperation for the welfare of the people among the political parties.

Four years will soon pass. We have no time for wavering or waiting. For the purpose of laying a solid and secure foundation for the country and bequeathing a happy and comfortable life to the future generations, let us get off to a very good start today—May 20, 1996.

First, we have to broaden and deepen the democratic exercise. Horizontally, we will share our democratic experience with all Chinese and international friends. Vertically, we will proceed to phase 2 constitutional reform, promote clean elections, ensure clean and efficient government, enhance law and order, restructure the political landscape, and strengthen the multiparty political system, so as to guarantee stability and development for democracy.

Economic growth and political democracy are equally important. Without continued success in economic development, we risk losing everything. We have to make sure that the plan for turning Taiwan into a hub for business operations in the Asia-Pacific region will proceed on schedule so that this country may from a position of strength play a role to be reckoned with in the international community and in the process of national unification. In the meanwhile we have to plan ahead for national development well into the next century, nurture a liberalized and internationalized economic regime in as short as possible a period of time, foster a low-tax, obstacle-free business climate, renovate the land system, improve the small and medium business, and greatly enhance national competitiveness. Only when thus prepared will we be able to compete in a new Asia-Pacific age of mutual benefit and co-prosperity, thus becoming an indispensable partner for prosperity and development internationally.

At the same time we do not intend to neglect development in non-economic sectors. Our top priorities will be the judicial system,