

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 30, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony to review the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's hydroelectric relicensing procedures.

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

CELEBRATING FLORENCE G. HEDKE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

• Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure and privilege to join the friends and family in celebrating the 100th birthday of a distinguished citizen of Riverdale, IL, Miss Florence G. Hedke, on November 11, 1997.

Miss Hedke is a testament to Riverdale's heritage. She began teaching at the Bowen School in 1919, and later became the school's principal before retiring in 1964. Miss Hedke cherished her experiences at the Bowen School so much that she now lives in the building that was once home to the original Bowen School.

As an educator, Miss Hedke inspired her students to dream, encouraged excellence and showed them the many avenues of opportunity made available through learning. She gave her students the foundation for their dreams. Her influence on the many students she touched has enriched their lives, and ours, in ways too numerous to calculate. She gave young people the confidence in themselves and hope for the future.

The Village of Riverdale, the State of Illinois, and our nation are all better as a result of Florence Hedke's talent, love and commitment to education. She is truly one of Illinois' special treasures, and I am honored to join in the celebration of her 100th birthday. •

CHRISTIANITY IN PUBLIC LIFE TODAY

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to submit for the record an address delivered by my colleague, Senator ABRAHAM from Michigan, to Legatus, a group of Catholic business leaders concerned to bring their faith into their economic and public lives.

We live in an era, Mr. President, in which religious Americans are faced with a number of obstacles as they seek to live their faith in our public square. I believe that Senator ABRAHAM well states the dilemma faced by people of faith and I hope our citizens, and Members of this body in particular,

will heed his call for greater understanding and accommodation for religious principles and beliefs.

As we face a continuing breakdown of our families and communities, I believe it is essential that we return to the fundamental institutions, beliefs and practices on which our society was founded. And to do that we must recognize the central role religion has and must continue to play in shaping our character and our community.

The address follows:

CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA TODAY

An address delivered to the Legatus Regional Conference on October 11, 1997 by Senator Spencer Abraham

First I would like to thank Tom Monahan and all the members of Legatus for having me here. Your work, bringing your faith to bear on your daily lives as business people and citizens, is crucial, in my view, to the health of our republic and the souls of our people.

Because I am speaking today about Christianity in America, I first must point out the standpoint from which I speak: I am both a Christian and a United States Senator. Now, some people might say that "Christian Senator" is an oxymoron, right up there with "political ethics" or "military intelligence." And it certainly can be difficult to stand up for what is right, for what Christ demands, if you listen too closely to the Washington wisdom. But I think those of you here today know full well how difficult it can be to bring your private beliefs into your public life. Indeed, I think our country as a whole suffers from the fact that we tend to seek a Christian private life while the government too often discourages Christian conduct.

Christianity in America and Christianity in Washington and our state capitals seem to be different things. The good news, of course, is that Christianity in America is in many ways thriving.

For example, by now most Americans have heard of the Promise Keepers. This organization was founded in 1990 by former University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney. Since its inception over two and a half million men have been to Promise Keepers conferences.

Here they promise to:

- (1) Honor Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's word.
- (2) Pursue friendships with men who will help them keep their promises.
- (3) Practice spiritual, moral, ethical and sexual purity.
- (4) Strengthen their commitment to their wives and children through love, protection and devotion to the Bible.
- (5) Become more involved in their churches.
- (6) Seek racial harmony, and
- (7) Follow the Golden Rule by loving God and loving their neighbors as themselves.

That's an unfashionable set of promises to ask men to keep. Yet hundreds of thousands of them came to Washington on October 4, pledging to keep these promises in their daily lives.

And there are a number of other important groups working to bring Christianity back into people's lives. Just a couple of weeks ago in Washington there was an "Emerging Urban Leaders Conference." Dozens of young people—so-called "Generation Xers"—from all over the country came together. At this conference they discussed ways to cooperate and learn from one another as they worked in faith-based groups struggling for community renewal.

The conference was held in a spirit of optimism because of the new organizations and

networks that are forming around the idea that faith-based programs can save our inner cities, and those who live in them.

And the statistics from a Gallup poll conducted just this year show that Christianity is very much alive among the American people.

Despite what you may hear in the press, less than 1% of the American people are atheists. Meanwhile, 9 out of 10 Americans give a religious identification. 7 out of 10 say they are a member of a church or synagogue. 6 out of 10 say religion is an important part of their daily life. 77% believe the Bible is the inspired word of God. 40% attend church on a weekly basis—a rate that has held steady for almost 40 years. 66% report that prayer is an important part of their daily life. And 61% believe religion can answer all or most of today's problems.

Unfortunately, despite this common religious attitude among the people, in Washington and many state capitals Christianity is having to struggle.

Let me give some examples.

First, one of the fundamental bases of our moral order, recognized by Judaism, Christianity and Islam alike, is the Ten Commandments. The moral principles laid out in these commandments, including love of God as well as rules against murder and perjury, literally gave birth to our society. We ignore them at our peril. Unfortunately, at least one judge has sought to bar expression of these principles from our public square.

Recently, an Alabama judge ordered his colleague, Judge Roy S. Moore, to stop displaying the Ten Commandments in his courtroom. This ruling, now on hold, rests on the mistaken belief that the Constitution's religion clause forbids such displays. It also rests on hostility toward public affirmations of our religious heritage. It can only undermine our adherence to the principles underlying our moral order.

A resolution introduced by my colleague, JEFF SESSIONS, would state that Judge Moore should be allowed to continue displaying the Ten Commandments in his courtroom. I believe that this is the appropriate response.

Unfortunately, activist judges have not been the only ones opposing any role for religion in our public life. Our elected officials too often undermine worthy projects out of hostility or fear toward religion.

For example, my colleague, Georgia Senator Paul COVERDELL, has proposed education legislation establishing "A-Plus Accounts." These accounts would allow parents to use the tax-free education savings accounts provided in the recent Taxpayer Relief Act for their children's elementary and secondary schooling, rather than just for college.

This would give parents greater control over their children's education. With help from these accounts, parents could buy a home computer to enable their child to explore the internet; pay for tutoring for a child having trouble with math; get occupational therapy for a child with special needs, or save for tuition payments and home schooling.

The interest on these savings accounts would not be taxed so long as it was used for educational expenses. And the cost to the federal government and taxpayer? Zero. A+ Accounts would simply allow parents to spend more of their own money on their children's education.

Unfortunately, the President has vowed to veto any bill containing these provisions. This administration does not want parents

to control their own children's educations. Simply giving parents the choice of saving their money for nonpublic and parochial schools for this administration is unacceptable. That is wrong, and it should be put right.

Another wrong we need to put right is abortion. I will do everything I can as a United States Senator to protect unborn life. Here I must point in admiration to my wife Jane. Through the Susan B. Anthony List, which works to elect pro-life women to Congress, and through her many personal efforts, she has done a great deal to improve our ability to correct the great tragedy of abortion.

Unfortunately, the pro-life cause is subjected to a great deal of unfair derision. The press focuses almost exclusively on the few bad apples who resort to violence, and tar us all as extremists. Meanwhile the terrible facts about partial birth abortion have been denied repeatedly, despite massive evidence. Even limited efforts to protect the unborn, like parental notification, have consistently failed to make it into law. In Washington, whether on the Senate floor or in the papers, it is considered "bad form" to even bring up the rights of the unborn.

Indeed, it seems to be bad form to bring up any issue of principle or morality, let alone religion, in Washington. Nor is Congress the only place in Washington where religion and traditional values are being undermined. The Executive branch has played its own, destructive role.

Recently President Clinton revoked Ronald Reagan's Executive Order, decreeing that federal bureaucrats consider their actions' effects on the families of this nation. As stated in its preamble, President Reagan's Executive Order was intended "to ensure that the autonomy and rights of the family are considered in the formulation and implementation of policies by Executive departments and agencies."

More than any government program, America's children are protected, nurtured and given the means they need to lead good lives by their families. No national "village" can replace the constant care and attention of parents. But all too often federal regulations interfere with parents as they try to teach, protect and nurture them.

For example, the Family Research Council reports that the Food and Drug Administration has classified home drug tests as a "Class 3 Medical Device," placing them in the same category as heart pace makers. In effect, the FDA has barred parents from using these tests in their homes—despite the fact that the drug tests work in the same, simple manner as home pregnancy tests.

The irony is that the federal government is using taxpayer dollars to promote the use of other medical devices, namely condoms. Condoms are the subject of a \$400,000 federal advertising effort, featuring rock music and sexually suggestive imagery, carried out under federal Department of Health and Human Services regulations.

It seems that, according to the federal government, bureaucrats in Washington are the only ones qualified to make certain that our children are not using drugs, and to educate them concerning sexuality and contraception—matters of deep importance to their spiritual lives.

In these and other ways, Washington seems to go out of its way to show contempt for traditional values. For example, the federally funded Smithsonian Institution, our premier teaching museum, recently refused to allow the Boy Scouts to hold an Honor Court ceremony at the National Zoo. Why? Because the Boy Scouts "discriminate" against atheists.

I found it deeply disturbing that the Boy Scouts, one of America's most important pri-

vate organizations, which has helped literally millions of American boys reach responsible manhood, should be denied access to a federally supported institution because it exercises its Constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

I also was disturbed that the Smithsonian Institution, the repository of so many objects central to our heritage as a people, should enforce a policy diametrically opposed to the principles on which our nation was founded.

Luckily, after I brought this travesty to the attention of my colleagues in the Senate, enough pressure was applied to the Smithsonian's secretary that he rescinded the order and apologized for this obvious instance of intolerance for religion.

I think it is important that we remember victories like this. And there have been others.

For example, the last welfare reform bill finally eliminated a destructive, ill-considered provision. That provision prohibited faith-based organizations from contracting with local governments to provide social services. Under this provision, faith-based organizations had to give up their religious character in order to provide social services with public assistance. The results have been tragic.

In the late 1980's, when the homeless population was rising, state and local officials in Michigan discovered large inner-city churches with plenty of space. But the federal government would not give any money to cities seeking to use the churches for homeless shelters. The problem? All religious references in the churches, from crucifixes to Bible scriptures carved into the walls, had to be removed or covered if government funds were to be spent.

The same situation confronted the people of Flint, where Catholic Social Services runs the North End Soup Kitchen in a building owned by Sacred Heart church. In order to receive government help, from what I am told, they were required to cover up their crucifixes and religious icons and literally hide the bibles. They even were required to create a separate legal entity to accept the aid.

This is wrong. It keeps many good organizations from getting more involved in their communities. It saps our religious spirit and denies people assistance they need.

Fortunately for our communities, this has changed. The charitable choice provision will see to it that states consider religious organizations on an equal, nondiscriminatory basis with private institutions. Faith based organizations are no longer required to remove "religious art, icons or other symbols" to receive federal funds. They also are no longer required to change hiring practices or create separate corporations in order to receive government contracts. The only requirement these organizations must meet is that they cannot use government money for sectarian worship, instruction or proselytizing activities.

These reforms already have produced miraculous results. Ottawa County recently was the subject of front page stories in both the Washington Post and USA Today. Why? Because that county's conservative, church-going communities have done what no one else had seemed able to do: get every one of its able-bodied welfare recipients into a paying job. Every one.

Governor Engler's innovative "Project Zero" deserves a great deal of credit for these results. But even more important, in my view, has been the participation of local churches and parishioners.

Faith-based organizations and individuals have served as mentors, helping people in trouble get their lives back on track. Wheth-

er by volunteering to babysit, by helping out with a loan, or by offering friendship and spiritual guidance, these people gave of themselves in ways that have changed lives for the better—in ways that until recently were considered illegal.

I think the Ottawa County experience shows that welfare reform is a solid step forward. We need to build on it, and try to move public policy in a way that recognizes the fundamental role of religion in our lives, and the fundamental principles religion gives us to guide our lives.

Most important, of course, is our duty to protect our children, born and unborn. And, on that front, I am hopeful that we will finally make some progress in the battle against abortion.

The House of Representatives has finally joined the Senate by voting to ban partial birth abortion. I know I, and thousands upon thousands of other people, was deeply disturbed by the tactics of some proponents of abortion in defending this practice. But I think the word is finally out: Partial birth abortion is dangerous, unnecessary, and simply unacceptable. And I am confident that, despite the President's veto, we will finally bring this inexcusable practice to a halt, once and for all.

But this struggle, over the most fundamental principle of all—the sanctity of human life—shows why we can't let liberals have their way.

I want to encourage all of you to get involved and stay involved in public life. Of course, you already are involved by being here in Legatus. But I think America needs you to do even more.

Frankly, there are plenty of groups organized on the other side who have a far different and far more radical agenda than those of us who want to restore traditional religious values. They want abortion on demand, fully-funded by taxpayer dollars up to and including the ninth month. They want government-paid physician assisted suicide, paid for by the Medicare and Medicaid plans to which you are forced to contribute. They want to push religion all the way out of our public life, from our schools, from our court-houses, and from our communities.

But there is no reason to despair. In fact, I think it would show an inappropriate lack of faith to despair for our country. With God's help, you and I can make a difference. We can stand up for the unborn. We can defend our families and the sanctity of marriage against deluded lawmakers and the smut put out by so-called "entertainers." We can fight to bring God back into the classroom and the courtroom. We can make America beautiful again by reminding her that, whatever Washington might say, we are a nation Under God and answerable to Him for our actions.

I am not here to tell you that this task will be easy. But I believe I share with you the conviction that God calls us to work for a more humane public square, in which the voice of faith can be heard. I believe I share with you also the conviction that God is calling all of us, in and out of Washington and Lansing, to renew our public life, to restore it to spiritual health by fighting for the same principles for which Christ died.

The cross may be heavy, but surely not so heavy as His. And we owe it to ourselves, our children and our God to work, in our homes, in our parishes and local communities, in our private lives and in our public lives, to make our society recognize the value of unborn life, the value of the lives of those who are old, ill or simply inconvenient, the value of a life not lived for the pleasure of the moment, but for the glory of God.●

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT McNAMARA

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a man who exemplifies the American dream. Dr. Robert McNamara, an assistant professor of sociology at Furman University, rose from a childhood of Dickensian poverty and violence to become a successful writer, prodigious researcher, and beloved teacher. In addition to devoting much time to instructing and advising his students, he has published nine books; his most recent, "Beating the Odds: Crime, Poverty, and Life in the Inner City," has just been released.

In "Beating the Odds," Dr. McNamara addresses some of our society's fundamental problems while relating them to the trials of his own impoverished childhood. Though it is unusual for an academic to intertwine memoir with analysis, Dr. McNamara's style makes his book all the more compelling.

Bob McNamara was born in New Haven, CT, in 1960, the youngest of four boys. He and his family—"dirty, unkempt, and unruly"—lived a tenuous existence in a squalid section of the city. His abusive and alcoholic father was a compulsive gambler. McNamara's parents divorced when he was 10 years old. Neither wanted to raise him; after a time, they began paying other people to care for him.

As an adolescent, Bob McNamara was sent to live with 19 different families. His abuse and exploitation at the hands of these so-called foster parents convinced him that "being a foster child is one of the most frightening things that could ever happen to a young person." It was not until one of his high school football coaches realized his potential and decided to become his foster parent that McNamara gained a stable and nurturing home.

With the help of supportive teachers and his new foster family, Bob McNamara turned his life around. He worked two jobs to pay for classes at the local community college. After succeeding there, he enrolled in the State university and commuted 60 miles each way to attend classes. He made outstanding grades and won a scholarship to Yale University, where he obtained his doctorate. While at Yale, he met another graduate student, Kristie Maher, whom he would later marry and who also teaches sociology at Furman University.

Dr. Robert McNamara is a living example of the promise of American life. He was born into an abysmally poor and dysfunctional family, with no role models or guidance. He spent much of his childhood stealing for food and running with gangs. But he found purpose in the pursuit of knowledge and nurturing from his teachers, and went on to excel at one of America's elite universities. Today, he is an admired teacher and respected scholar.

Mr. President, "Beating the Odds" is not just the title of Prof. Robert McNamara's latest and most inspiring

book; it is the story of his life. In fact, beating the odds is what the American dream is all about.●

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALSH COLLEGE

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to Walsh College on the occasion of their 75th anniversary. Since 1922, Walsh College has been highly instrumental in turning business leaders of tomorrow into business leaders of today. Michiganites, and many others across America, have benefited immensely by the quality of education and rich tradition bestowed upon its students.

Over 11,000 Walsh College alumni have worked to improve Michigan's economy and bring about a better quality of life for those near to them. With over 3,000 students and 4 campuses—soon to be 5 campuses—Walsh College continues to enlarge its positive impact on Michigan's southeastern communities.

It is well known by businesses in Michigan that Walsh students excel in their work. For example, 10 have received the Paton Award for achieving the highest Michigan score on the CPA exam, and 13 have received the Sells Award for placing in the top 100 of those taking the test nationwide. Through its six undergraduate degree programs and five graduate programs, Walsh College brings to Michigan an unparalleled excellence in education.

Again, congratulations for 75 great years in business education and, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, I offer my highest appreciation and praise to all who have made the past 75 years a great success.●

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1997

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate has passed one of the most important agriculture bills it will consider this session. The Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1997 not only represents a strong statement by the Senate on the importance of research to the future of American agriculture but also a substantive improvement in USDA's research efforts. I am pleased that both sides of the aisle have come together to invest in the future of agriculture and rural communities in this country. I am especially pleased with the cooperation I have enjoyed with the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator LUGAR, and his staff throughout the development of this important legislation.

This bill ensures that our farmers and ranchers have the world's best science and technology to produce food and fiber, protect the environment upon which agriculture depends, and create rural economic opportunities. We are devoting over \$1 billion in new funds over the next 5 years to advance

the science and technology underlying our agricultural system. I am also pleased that we were able to find the resources to improve the nutrition of our Nation's poorest children.

We have also extended the fund for rural America through 2002 and reaffirmed and enlarged our commitment to the pressing development needs of our rural communities. The fund was a key component of the 1996 Farm bill, created to provide funds to help farmers and rural communities to transition into the new farm policy environment. I am pleased we have allocated an additional \$300 million to these purposes so the fund will continue to emphasize creative research and rural development efforts.

This bill contains substantial new initiatives for research and development of new uses for agricultural commodities. I believe that the most important way to increase farm income is to find new nonfood markets for agricultural commodities. New uses activities at the USDA will be conducted in a coordinated manner to garner the maximum benefit from the various research programs. We have authorized the USDA to use its resources to conduct research on lowering the cost of production of alternative agricultural products in cooperation with startup companies, including AARCC companies. Finally, AARCC is a priority for the new research initiative included in this bill.

This bill also contains significant reforms in the current research programs. We have increased the accountability of the research and extension formula funds. We require the Secretary to consult with producers, industry and consumers in setting research priorities. We require external scientific peer-review of ARS research.

Finally, we have taken the first steps in encouraging the inter-State cooperation on research and extension problems. States are required to dedicate a portion of research and extension funds to problems of national or multi-State significance. In the process I believe we are making our research system more responsive to critical issues and we hopefully will eliminate unnecessary duplication of efforts.

Mr. President, we have increased the funding, competitiveness, accountability and credibility of U.S. agricultural research. We have let the world know that we are serious about equipping American agriculture for future food production changes. We also take steps to assure the taxpayer that research dollars are expended in the most efficient manner. We have done all this in a strong bipartisan manner. I think we can all take pride in the fact that today we have made a significant investment in a better future for not only the U.S. farmer and rancher but also in a better future for an increasingly crowded and hungry world.●