

were admitted to the Union. Many of us have already seen the five new State quarters minted this year with designs from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut. The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to select the design and determine the number of quarters to be issued with each of the new designs. The statute outlines standards for designs and establishes a selection process for each State that includes consultation with State officials, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

The new coins also establish a sense of pride in honoring the 50 States and the heritage they represent. But very importantly, the Act is a tool that will help lower the debt of the United States. That is right. The U.S. coins from the penny to the dollar actually turn a profit. In fact, last year, the Mint returned a profit of over \$1 billion to the taxpayer. This is often an overlooked element that can be an important tool to slow the looming public debt of this Nation.

The 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act estimates the 10-year coin program for the quarter would produce \$110 million in earnings or approximately \$11 million annually, coming mostly from the coins sold as commercial products from the Mint. Frankly, the quarter program is already a huge success. In fact, the Mint has dedicated its main phone line to answer questions about the quarters and how to order them. Last year, the U.S. Mint made 1.6 billion quarters. This year the Mint plans to make 5.6 billion, due to the new design.

Clearly, this \$110 million yield expected on the new quarter is a significant amount. But the real savings comes in what is called seigniorage. Seigniorage is the difference between the face value of the coin and the coin's cost of production. The costs include coin processing operations, transportation costs and related overhead.

Specifically, to manufacture a quarter costs around 5 cents to the Treasury. Thus, the government is realizing a 20 cent profit per quarter put into circulation. Therefore, the anticipated seigniorage profit to the Treasury for the new quarters is estimated between \$2.6 billion and \$5.1 billion. Let me repeat that again. The anticipated profit to the Treasury and ultimately to the taxpayer is \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion, depending on how many they make.

□ 1930

Let us extrapolate for a moment. Next year, the Mint will start producing the new gold-colored Sacajawea \$1 coin. The seigniorage accrued from the dollar coin is estimated to be around 85 to 90 cents per coin. Imagine, 90 cents profit returned to the taxpayer for every dollar coin produced.

Congress talks a lot about balancing budgets, but with the national debt way over \$5 trillion maybe it is time we start targeting our new profits from

coins toward eliminating the cloud of debt that still hangs over us. Maybe we can actually find a silver lining and reduce the debt for our children.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this great Chamber to share with my colleagues one of the greatest moments that I have experienced as a Member of Congress.

Today I participated in a discussion with the chaperons for the Voices Against Violence Conference which is being held today and tomorrow on Capitol Hill. Voices Against Violence is a national student conference whose purpose is to add the voices of America's high school students to the debate in Washington over what to do about youth violence.

LaDasha Richardson and George Whitfield of the Cleveland School of the Arts, of the Cleveland Municipal School District, are representing my district, the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

LaDasha and George started the Students Against a Violent Environment, SAVE, a grass-roots organization comprised of students from around the city of Cleveland, that is committed to assisting and educating children and young adults on how to make our communities safe and more positive.

Today I want to applaud their efforts. I also want to recognize the chaperones who have accompanied students like LaDasha and George here today who too are committed to making the lives of our children better. Because of their commitment, I asked each chaperone what we can do as elected officials to make their vision a reality.

I asked each to complete a card giving their name, the area they represented and if they could tell Congress one thing what that one thing would be. Here to my right are some of the comments which highlight what we in Congress need to do to make the lives of our children better, in the words of these various chaperons.

Later on my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), and I, will be talking about the statements that these chaperons have made.

Charlie Jackson, an assistant principal at Brooks County High School in Quitman, Georgia says, "More money is needed to provide the opportunities and experiences to help our kids overcome the issues they face."

Luis Beltre of New York City writes, "Although young people cannot vote, we must empower them and instill in them a sense of pride because they do

count. We should create a National General Youth Council that will express the voice of young people today."

Mike Stauropoulos of Memphis, Tennessee, writes, "Democrats and Republicans must do a better job of making kids their priority and not their own political agendas. It is very discouraging to see the waste of time and energy being wasted in Washington as one party tries to show up the other. If you want the people to have a voice, then listen to them and make them a priority."

Robert Brucher of Illinois writes, "I do not want to appear ungrateful but please do not give me money for extra teachers until you send me money to build another room in which they can teach. Make me accountable for educating my students but give me the tools. Help me and my colleagues make opportunities for our kids."

Anne Christensen of Minnesota writes, "Our children know what is happening. Please listen to them. Put more money into programs and early prevention."

Albert Harper of Coventry, Connecticut, writes, "So long as any child is disenfranchised from the promise of a future in America, we have talked without hope and our children fall in disrepair and violence."

Deborah A. Covarrubia of San Antonio, Texas, writes, "The most influential aspect of a young person's life is the education they receive. Parents, teachers and mentors should take more responsibility in teaching ethics. Ethics in education should be emphasized. God's law is man's law."

Kathleen Kropf of Macomb, Michigan writes, "Homeless children from working poor families continues to grow at an alarming rate in our country. These children and their families need to be acknowledged and assisted. Why in the richest country in the world do 10 percent of our citizens go to bed hungry every night? There should be no, quote, hungry or homeless children in our country today. We cannot assist them without acknowledging and addressing this problem."

Finally, Roger Barnes of La Crosse, Wisconsin, writes, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. For me, the main thing is our youth. Character does count. When it comes to character, we must put politics aside and do the right thing. Send a strong message about the moral fiber which made this country great. When we tolerate immorality at the highest levels, the message is overwhelming and becomes a disease which permeates the entire population."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to speak to the issues of the chaperons.

THE LEGION OF HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the year 2000 quickly approaches, I believe that we are in a unique position to reflect upon our Nation's history and the constant commitment of our United States veterans. These are the men and women who have accepted the highest responsibility and made the greatest sacrifice to preserve freedom and liberty for their brothers and sisters. Their dedication to protect our country and preserve the principles that it was founded upon have ensured and provided for the survival and strength of this Nation.

Last year, we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of Armistice Day, a day that marked the end of World War I. The first world war became known as the "Great War." It was fought to make the world safe for democracy. The government of France decided to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice by awarding the Legion of Honor, France's highest decoration, to Americans and other allied veterans who served in the "Great War" on French soil.

Mr. Speaker, whenever we have been involved in conflict, brave citizens have always answered the call to duty. The first world war was no exception. The United States sent over 4.5 million troops into battle and over 100,000 never came home. These individuals gave their lives to protect our country and the freedoms we all enjoy today.

Today we have approximately 3,200 living World War I veterans, half of whom are believed to have served in France during the war. Harvey Lewis Gray of Carteret County, North Carolina, had just turned 18 in 1917 when he joined his fellow Americans in the "Great War" in the fight against tyranny.

Corporal Gray was one of almost 2 million Americans sent across the ocean to fight alongside French soldiers. He served in the United States Army from April of 1917 to April of 1919 and served in the 26th Division in France. This year, Harvey Gray is celebrating 100 years of life. I am proud that the Third District of North Carolina, which I have the honor to represent, is home to such a courageous soldier.

On October 7 of this year, Harvey Gray received the Legion of Honor award surrounded by his family and friends. His commitment to his Nation can only be matched with his commitment to his family. I could not be more proud to represent such a fine soldier and a fine man. Harvey Gray's effort in the name of freedom is unforgettable and worthy of the recognition and tribute he has received, and more.

Mr. Speaker, my grandfather was gassed during World War I at the Battle of Argonne. While my grandfather was fortunate enough to survive, thousands of others lost loved ones. The courage of these brave soldiers and the courage of all who have served this Nation have provided for the free democratic nation we enjoy today.

Daniel Webster once said, and I quote, "And by the blessing of God, may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of wisdom or peace, and of liberty, upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever."

Mr. Speaker, it is because of the strength and courage of men and women like Harvey Gray that America is free today. Our United States veterans symbolize the greatness of this Nation. They represent the America that rose to greatness on the shoulders of ordinary citizens. While we can never thank them enough for their sacrifice, we can recognize the heroic courage of our veterans who fought for our freedom.

Harvey Gray, I thank you and your country thanks you for your courage and your service to this great Nation.

CHAPERONES AND VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) for organizing this special order. Earlier today, I had the honor of addressing 180 very special people, the chaperons who have accompanied students from around this country in today's historic Voices Against Violence Conference. Clearly these professionals care about kids. Many of them work in schools or community centers, dealing with our young people and with youth-related issues every day.

This week, they are serving as effective listeners, allowing students to express their views about the violence which has permeated their lives and surrounds them. I am proud that Raquel Lopez from Santa Barbara is escorting three students from the 22nd district of California. Raquel has spent her career working with youth in her community as a counselor to teen mothers, as an advocate for a local youth center and as a leadership development director for Girls, Incorporated.

Raquel does great work in our community, on the line every day, and is a wonderful presence at this conference.

Today's meeting away from the students for a few hours, chaperons were able to state their own views on why there is so much violence surrounding our students. I wanted to share some of their insightful comments on reducing youthful violence.

Maria Brenes from Oakland, California, says, "I strongly recommend that a national youth leadership initiative be implemented to provide positive alternatives as a larger violence prevention; to empower our youth."

Marcia Kaplan from New Jersey says, "We need some form of parenting education in the school system so that we

can provide parents with tools that they need to deal with our kids," with their children, "today, and the issues that they face."

Lucy Santini Smith from Michigan has stated, "We must listen and determine together what programs should be funded, like after school programs and mentoring programs, demonstrate to them that Congress does listen, cares deeply and initiates real programs."

Finally, Benton Billings, a teacher from Lansing, Michigan, said, "If we really want to get at the heart of our Nation's school violence problems, the kids must be involved in the dialogue. They really know what is going on and what solutions would work best."

Mr. Billings, I could not agree with you more. In our efforts to understand and curtail violence among our youth, we sometimes forget to consult our kids. That is a mistake. It is time for us to learn from them. And just by being here, these committed individuals are allowing this to happen. I salute all of the adults who make this Voices Against Violence Conference possible. They really created the event so that the students could attend by coming along with them. As important as our work here in Washington is, we know that the real work in reducing youth violence will come from within our communities themselves.

Our chaperones are going to help make that happen. We have a responsibility here in Congress. We need to set our own priorities straight, with our children and with our young people in mind, as a number one priority, so that the appropriate resources will be available for them in our communities and through the dedicated community heroes who work with them each and every day.

VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE ADDRESS ISSUES INVOLVING YOUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, like my colleague who preceded me to the podium here this evening, I had the opportunity this morning to speak to 180 of the chaperons who were here with the over 400 students who are here today and tomorrow meeting on and talking about and using their voice, Voices Against Violence, so that those of us who serve in these halls might hear them.

Today and tomorrow, these youngsters from all across this country are participating in this conference and they are going to address the issues involved in youth violence.

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As most of my colleagues know, before I came to this body, I was privileged to serve for 8 years as State superintendent in North Carolina. I certainly have some understanding of