

King suggested that we should not, as he stated, "judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles, but rather . . . by the quality of our service and relationship to humanity."

In keeping with that vision, it is not enough to discuss how we can foster change within our communities. We must act and become involved in our communities the way Dr. King involved himself in the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s.

This year, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday observance theme was "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!" I cannot think of a better way to honor Dr. King's memory than taking part in our local communities and extending our help to those in need.

I am particularly pleased that Kansas organizations are working to honor Dr. King's memory by their outstanding work in their communities. I regularly visit different charity organizations throughout the State of Kansas, such as the Grace Center, which is a home for unwed mothers, and Bread of Life, which is an inner-city church that is leading community revitalization by partnering with schools and neighborhood organizations to provide scholastic, mentoring, and bible study programs. It is through this important work that we truly demonstrate the sacrificial love required to achieve Dr. King's "Dream" of an equal society.

Likewise, in order to realize Dr. King's "Dream" we must constantly work to improve our communities. Dr. King suggested that we will one day live in a society that encompasses all the principles for which he fought so hard and valiantly on April 3, 1968, the day before Dr. King's tragic death, he gave the following speech:

I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountain top. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land. And I'm happy tonight, I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the lord.

The day before.

Let us keep pressing up the mountain. We are not in the Promised Land yet. We must keep his faith and his wisdom for our future.

We need to return to those basic values, which Dr. King promoted. Those values are work, family, and most important, the recognition of a higher moral authority. Only through those qualities will we become a nation truly worthy of Dr. King's legacy. Quoting again from Dr. King:

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but . . . at times of challenge

and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others.

Indeed, Dr. King exemplified these qualities in his life. We should all join me in continuing his legacy.

So, as we start this legislative session on the day after we honor Dr. King, let us keep his principles in mind as we press forward in this Nation to the promised land.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN addressed the Chair

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from the State of Washington, Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Illinois for his work this morning, with our leader Senator TOM DASCHLE, in setting out the Democratic priorities that are so important to us and to the American people.

Having just returned from a very short weekend in my State, 2,500 miles away, it is clear that the American people are waiting anxiously to hear what the 106th Congress is planning to do regarding the business of the people. At the top of the list of people's concerns is the education of our young people.

Today, as you heard from our leader, we are presenting a comprehensive set of investments in America's public schools—school construction, before-and-after school care, improvements in teacher quality and class-size reduction.

In the fall of 1998, the U.S. Senate took the first important step on the path to reducing class size. In the fall of 1999, just a few months from now, when parents send their children off to school, they will ask them on the first day, as they always do: "Who is your teacher? And how many children are in your class?"

But the schools those children attend next fall will have a new tool for helping students learn. Approximately 30,000 new, well-prepared teachers will go into classrooms across this country. Demonstrating that Capitol Hill can listen to the people and get things done, we got the 105th Congress to agree to starting on this important path.

This year, we must finish the job we started last fall. We must provide schools the remainder of the funding necessary to hire 100,000 new and well-trained teachers over the next 6 years. This year, our work will include the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the major law that governs K-12 education in this country.

As part of our work, we must authorize the class-size reduction effort we started last year in appropriations. We

must finish the job for the people in local school communities who are relying on us to do our job.

People in schools across this Nation are fully engaged in the debate over educational quality and in identifying what works to improve learning for students. Local education leaders know that reducing class size is an effective part of local school improvement.

Research shows that it works and so does the experience of teachers and parents and students. Policymakers and educators know that as they reduce class size, they can also improve the quality of their local teacher pool by improving professional development, training, certification and recruitment.

Local communities are using the Federal class size and teacher quality effort as a way to beef up their own investment in the future of their young people. School boards are taking action. Governors and State legislators are proposing class-size investments this year based on our successful effort last year.

All of these people are moving ahead with class-size reduction, because last year their representatives in Washington, DC, finally heard the call for funding for more and better teachers. They are counting on continued funding, and we have come back this year to get it for them. I just want to take this opportunity to tell people directly—we intend to keep class-size reduction a national priority.

The proposal in the bill that was outlined by our Democratic leader today, and in a bill I will be introducing separately, honors the agreement that we achieved last year. It requires no new forms and no red tape. It focuses on hiring new teachers, but it also makes investments in teacher quality from the onset, and it allows districts that meet their goals of getting to 18 or fewer students in classes in grades 1 through 3 to use the money to improve class size in other grades or to take other steps to improve the quality of their teaching pool.

I can't tell you how many times I have heard from people since the end of last Congress, how thankful they were that their Congress started this important investment in class-size reduction. Students learn better when they get the help they need in their classroom. I have been hearing it from students themselves. They want to thank us for doing the right thing, and they want us to keep it up.

Mr. President, education really matters. This year, we have the country behind us and several major opportunities to seriously improve American schools to meet American expectations. But it will take a lot of hard work and courage to get there. We need all our school laws to work better for local communities, for our teachers and staff, for parents and families, and most importantly, for our students. We must keep in mind that the students are our real clients and organize our work around their needs and not ours.

We need better flexibility, better accountability, better efficiency and better funding. We need to make some important investments in the nuts and bolts of providing education, class-size reduction, better facilities, better training for teachers and more opportunities for students to be safe and to learn. These investments cost money, and we just need to make it happen.

We also need better leadership and vision and articulation of why we are all working so hard—so that students learn better and faster and have more hope for the future.

As a former school board member, I can tell you that sometimes the decisions are not about money, they are about finding the best way to do things so students can learn. And we need to support those decisions as well.

A great example of this was our superintendent, John Stanford, of the Seattle school district. Superintendent Stanford, who died this year after a heroic battle with cancer, showed people in Seattle and around the Nation just what we can accomplish in our schools by setting the right tone, asking for the best effort possible, and not accepting less. Many adults in a community know the superintendent of their district, but never have I seen so many students, young children who knew that John Stanford was their superintendent and that he wanted desperately and personally for them to succeed and they responded.

You will see elements of all these ideas today that address all of these issues—clear vision, more flexibility, better accountability, increased efficiency and improved funding. You will see here what America is asking for its public schools: We need to set high standards, articulate a vision, and give people the support and backing they need to get the job done. When these bills pass into law, you will see American schools that work better, for better results, for all of our children.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the American people to take these important steps for better schools across our land. As well, I thank our leader for speaking to legislation that he will introduce shortly on health care reform, retirement security, afterschool programs and more. These are the issues the American public wants us to address and work on, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to meet these challenges. I hope we can make progress this year and make a difference in the quality of life in all of the families in this country. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BOND. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 52 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Iowa, Senator HARKIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thank the manager.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Sarah Lister, a fellow on my staff, during the introduction of S. 18.

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

(The remarks of Mr. HARKIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 18 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition this morning to comment briefly on the President's State of the Union speech and to introduce legislation, since this is the first day of the 106th Congress when legislation may be introduced.

I applaud President Clinton for proceeding with the State of the Union tonight. Some say that Capitol Hill is schizophrenic with impeachment proceedings in the Senate Chamber, and across the Rotunda we will hear the President's State of the Union speech in the House Chamber. But I believe that it is very important that we take care of the Nation's business. I think that can be accomplished at the same time that we move forward with the Senate being constituted as a Court of Impeachment to decide that issue.

I have noted the advance text of the President's statement commenting on education and his desire to set up incentives to be a condition for Federal funding. I chair the Appropriations' Subcommittee on Education and we will proceed very promptly with hearings on that subject to make a determination, legislatively, as to whether, at least in the view of our subcommittee, those kinds of standards and those kinds of conceptions are appropriate or whether they may constitute too much Federal interference with education which traditionally has been left to the State and local levels. But we are prepared to move right ahead with that legislation, with that consideration.

Noted also from the President's advance text about an intention to deal with the issue of local preparation for responding if—God forbid—there should be weapons of mass destruction unleashed on the American people—again, that is a matter which would come within our Subcommittee on Health. At the same time, there is a commission working on weapons of mass de-

struction, on legislation which I authored 2 years ago as chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. John Deutch, former CIA Director, chairs the commission and I serve as vice chairman of the committee.

We are prepared to move ahead with what the President has offered and what the President has to say. I compliment him for moving ahead with that State of the Union speech to take care of the Nation's business. I believe the Congress will cooperate by moving ahead on two tracks—we can have the Court of Impeachment in the Senate Chamber and the State of the Union speech in the House Chamber, and the Rotunda will not be schizophrenic and we can function.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I am introducing three legislative matters, including legislation on health care, which has been a focal point of my attention and my tenure in the Senate, and again for my chairmanship of the Appropriations' Subcommittee on Health. I believe that we can move ahead to cover the 43 million Americans who are now not covered within the existing expenditures of \$1.100 trillion a year. There are ways to economize. There can be an extension of health care by making it easier for small businesses to pool their resources and buy health insurance, by accelerating the date when there will be full deductibility for health care, and there could be very, very substantial savings possible on matters which are specified in the course of this legislation.

ENTERPRISE ZONES IN AMERICA

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I am introducing, along with the distinguished Senator from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, legislation to deal with America's cities. Some are urgently in need of assistance. Our legislation is not to add new funding through appropriations but, instead, to have the General Services Administration allocate 15 percent of new expenditures to enterprise zones, to distressed areas, to have Federal buildings constructed, with the priority in cities where there are depressed areas to provide jobs in those areas, and to reinstitute certain historical tax breaks which could be of great benefit for the cities.

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION FOR NIH

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, a third legislative matter is a resolution calling for the Budget Committee to allocate an additional \$2 billion to the health account to be used for the National Institutes of Health, being offered on behalf of myself and Senator HARKIN in our continuing effort to see to it that additional funds are allocated for the National Institutes of Health, which is really the crown jewel