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This patent and trademark database could not have come at a better time. In the last 2 years, patent applications have increased by 25 percent and trademark applications have increased by 16 percent. In 1998, the Patent and Trademark Office received over a quarter of a million applications for patents alone, and they issued more than 150,000 patents.

Advancements in medicine, information technology, pharmaceuticals, transportation, environmental protection, manufacturing, agriculture, entertainment and countless other areas of science depend on patents. New inventions build on existing science, and existing science will now be available to anyone with Internet access—whether they live in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont or Nome, Alaska or Silicon Valley, California.

This free Internet access changes the dynamic for American independent inventors and for corporate giants. Citizens who simply want to learn more by browsing the Web, students doing school projects, independent inventors and corporate research departments now can search this vast database. I have supported this development for several years and am delighted that it is fully up and running.

TRIBUTE TO STATE DIRECTOR BILL LAMB UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bill Lamb upon his retirement for his thirty-six years of dedicated service with the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Lamb retired on April 2, 1999 after four successful years as BLM's State Director in Utah.

As native Utahn, Bill Lamb began to work for the BLM in 1963 at the age of 22. A graduate of Utah State University, he served in a number of positions varying from a range conservationist, Director of the Arizona Strip to a budget official here in Washington. For the last four years Bill has served as the Utah State BLM Director. I know that I speak for all of the members of the Utah delegation when I say that it has been a privilege to work with him.

I have watched Bill perform with grace under pressure, always dealing with the contentious land management issues in Utah with an even-hand and a listening ear. His well-deserved reputation for always being honest and candid helped sooth over the hard feelings and frayed nerves brought on by the creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. He was instrumental in the successful comple-

tion of the historic Utah Schools and Lands Exchange Act of 1998 which traded State Trust lands locked up in the Grand Staircase for other federal lands in Utah.

Bill worked to preserve important wildlife habitat and at the same time, increased public participation through the creation of the Washington County Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan and the reestablishment of the citizens' advisory board. He always strived to maintain a balance between conservation and utilization and in the process earned a reputation for being one of the most able and affable leaders within BLM. I will miss his valuable advice and perspective tremendously.

Secretary Babbitt said: "Bill Lamb has done a remarkable job in one of the most demanding positions in the BLM." I could not agree more. I thank Bill for his service that was at many times thankless. He will be sorely missed. I wish him great success in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES B. MCMILLAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to day to pay tribute to James B. McMillan, pioneer and leader of the civil rights movement in Nevada. James McMillan was a longtime Las Vegas dentist whose name was often associated with the local civil rights movement as well as the desegregation of Las Vegas casinos.

Dr. McMillan has been widely praised for his role in bringing down the color barriers in Las Vegas. He began his exemplary career in Detroit and then moved to Las Vegas where he became the first practicing black dentist. His pioneering initiatives were displayed through such efforts as helping to form the Human Rights Commission and his 1964 Senate run as the first black from Nevada to run for the U.S. Senate. Additionally, in 1971, McMillan became the first black to be appointed to the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners.

When McMillan first arrived in Las Vegas the town was dubbed the "Mississippi of the West" and blacks were generally not allowed in hotel-casinos. While serving in the Korean war, McMillan opened his home to house black entertainers. At the time, black entertainers were rapidly escorted in and out of hotels and were not allowed to fraternize with hotel guests but only to perform in the show rooms. However, desegregation began shortly before McMillan first came to Las Vegas in 1955 with the opening of the Moulin Rouge, the first integrated hotel-casino. Throughout his career McMillan worked to further the accessibility to hotel-casinos for blacks.

McMillan first felt the call to participate in the civil rights movement amid a turbulent atmosphere in 1959 at a NAACP Freedom Front Dinner. The speaker was NAACP Field Secretary Tarea Hall Pittman whose subject was "Las Vegas, now is the time." Despite death threats, McMillan began orga-

nizing for a local peace march on the Strip which turned the tide in the struggle for integration. From this point on, McMillan devoted his life to provide and expand opportunities for blacks. He began to register black voters and recruit black teachers for local schools. At age 74 he was elected to the Clark County School Board. Eventually a school in northwest Las Vegas, The James B. McMillan Elementary School, was named in his honor.

Last year, McMillan published his autobiography, "Fighting Back—A Life in the Struggle for Civil Rights." James B. McMillan's life truly was a reflection of a valiant, idealistic, and nonviolent struggle for equality. His lifeworks have opened doors for many blacks in the United States and will continue to be an inspiration for all who are engaged in the race for equality.

This U.S. Senator is a better person because of the efforts of Dr. McMillan. Nevada is a better state because of Dr. McMillan's refusal to accept the status quo and his lifelong dedication in the struggle for equality.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, April 23, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,586,140,738,923.35 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty-six billion, one hundred forty million, seven hundred thirty-eight thousand, nine hundred twenty-three dollars and thirty-five cents).

One year ago, April 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,501,159,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred one billion, one hundred fifty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, April 23, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,486,568,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-six billion, five hundred sixty-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 23, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$471,225,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-one billion, two hundred twenty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,114,915,738,923.35 (Five trillion, one hundred fourteen billion, nine hundred fifteen million, seven hundred thirty-eight thousand, nine hundred twenty-three dollars and thirty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, last Wednesday, I came to the floor of the Senate to thank my colleagues who offered their sympathies for the victims and their families involved in the tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. I also wanted the people in Colorado to know that our hearts in the United States Senate were with all of the families through this terrible and tragic time.

Since then, the victims have been identified. Today, it is with deep sadness that I include for the RECORD the names of the innocent victims at Columbine High School. I believe it is a fitting tribute for the United States Senate to recognize these 12 students

and one teacher who lost their lives in such an unthinkable way.

Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey De Pooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, William "Dave" Sanders, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velasquez.

PARENTS ABDICATE; FAITH IS ABANDONED

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I had tried numerous times without success during the weekend to reach by telephone a remarkable young mother whom I had never met. I learned about her while reading a newspaper back home in North Carolina that published on April 23 what is most often referred to these days as an "op-ed" piece headed, "Parents Abdicate; Faith Is Abandoned".

(An op-ed piece, of course, is the short-form identification of an article published on the page opposite a newspaper's editorial page.)

The op-ed piece which so impressed me was authored by Mrs. Ashley Ethridge of Mebane, N.C., a former school teacher who decided to spend her time raising her two little girls. (She and her husband are expecting a third child later this year).

I mentioned at the outset my having tried for much of the weekend to reach Mrs. Ethridge by telephone. Sunday afternoon those efforts were successful—and I must say, Mr. President, that my conversation with Mrs. Ethridge could not have been more meaningful.

Senators who read her "op-ed" piece will agree, I think, that this lady is a gifted writer. She is a graduate of N.C. State University and she has completed graduate work. She is excitingly profound in her analysis of what ails America in our time.

I must confess that I myself have long been alarmed by America's drift away from the moral and spiritual principles and priorities upon which our nation was founded more than two centuries ago. Many of my generation often lament the trend. But Mrs. Ethridge has diagnosed the moral malady better than I, and she offers the prescription to turn the nation's direction around more precisely, more specifically than I ever have.

Mr. President, I don't often do this but in the case of my remarks today, and Mrs. Ethridge's clarity and counsel, I shall urge my fellow Senators to read what this young mother in Mebane, North Carolina, feels that all of us ought to consider.

So I am glad that I tried, one more time, Sunday afternoon to reach Mrs. Ethridge. It was a blessing to hear her voice and to sense her understanding of the course America simply must take—now.

So, Mr. President, I say to Ashley Ethridge: God bless you for the clarity of your wake-up call to the most fortu-

nate people on earth—we citizens of the United States of America. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of Ashley Ethridge's observations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PARENTS ABDICATE; FAITH IS ABANDONED (By Ashley Ethridge)

Is it just me, or has the entire country gone completely mad?

In recent editions of the newspaper I have learned that it is good fun when sexually explicit and violent Marilyn Manson shock-rock concerts attract swarms of young adolescent boys—presumably sans parents—cheering Satan; that magazines for teenage girls are emblazoned with headlines such as "How To Totally Turn Him On"; and that parents are paying \$800 a month to put infants in institutionalized day care while the mommies and daddies keep tabs on baby's milestones via surveillance camera. People frown upon giving a 3-year-old a doughnut, but don't even flinch at giving birth control pills to a young teen suspected of having sex.

Nickelodeon (remember, the network just for kids—no adults allowed?) is now changing the entire slant of its programming because its executives have discovered that children now, more than anything else, wish for time with their parents.

In the wake of the Littleton, Colo., massacre, Wake County's school superintendent, Jim Surratt, asked what kind of sick society would produce people who would want to do that kind of thing. I find the answers to Surratt's question in my newspaper almost every morning.

In his response to the tragedy, President Clinton said that perhaps now America will wake up to the dimensions of the challenge of juvenile violence. I can only assume that he is implying a need for more programs, courtesy of the government and thus the taxpayers. More counseling, more day care, more before-school care, more after-school care, more gun control and of course more counselors and mediators in the schools.

I too hope America will wake up—wake up to the fact that children need more parental love and guidance.

The parents who blame the media and other outside influences for teen violence should be diligent in shielding their children from the offending sources. Where are these parents when their under-17-year-olds are filling the theaters of the many R-rated teen flicks now playing? Where are these parents when their children are wading through the murky waters of the Internet? Where are these parents when their children are buying music bearing Parental Advisory warning labels? Where are these parents when their children are watching questionable—at best—prime time television shows?

How can parents remove themselves almost completely from their children's lives and then blame "Dawson's Creek" when their daughters become pregnant or Leo DiCaprio when their sons become violent?

Clinton also says that the nation must search for answers. This is absurd, and yet is also precisely the problem. The answer is obvious for anyone who will see it. Unfortunately, we are so ensconced in our spiritually empty, materialistic, self-centered lives that we do not seem to care that we are sacrificing our children. We applaud Clinton's initiative to fund more studies so that experts can search for answers because it lifts the burden from our pathetic shoulders.

Why is it that so few people seem to believe that parents have a responsibility to raise their own children, to spend time with

them, to help them, teach them and nurture them toward a happy, productive adulthood? Parenting has now simply become a process of buying children anything they want, including guardians and homework-helpers, for as long as they want—often well into what should be adulthood.

Stop searching the psychology journals and parenting magazines and federally funded studies for answers. Search your hearts and make your children, your families, your first priority.

Clinton says that more must be done to help children deal with anger. This sounds like hiring more school counselors. Why not look to the cause of so much anger among our young people? Could it possibly have something to do with the fact that they know that their parents really don't want to be bothered with the task of raising them?

Frankly, I don't think the schools are equipped to handle situations such as these, lamentable as they are, nor do I think they ought to. And I think some parents are just looking at school as a place to stick their kids to get them out of their hair.

Over 400 years ago, Martin Luther warned that if God were removed from education, schools would prove to be the gates of hell. What happens when we remove God from our families and homes, forsaking our children as well? What happens when we remove Him from society as a whole, and worship instead the Almighty Dollar?

Is it hot in here, or is it just me?

Mr. HELMS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

Y2K ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 96, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 96, a bill to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems related to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of the year's date.

The Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I yield myself so much time as may be permitted under the unanimous-consent agreement.

Pending the discussion with respect to the Y2K problem, let me say at the outset that if there were a Y2K problem, we on this side of the opposition, let's say, to the particular bill and the amendment forthcoming with respect