

destroyed in World War II; the British and French expired soon after.

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, in that triumph of human freedom and American perseverance, the empire of Lenin and Stalin collapsed, leaving the United States as the world's sole superpower. In the phrase of our foreign policy elite, we have become the world's "indispensable nation."

But it is just such hubristic rhetoric that calls forth apprehension, for it reflects a pride that all too often precedes a great fall.

Long ago, Teddy Roosevelt admonished us: "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Today, we have whittled down the stick, even as we raised the decibel count.

My apprehension is traceable, too, to a belief that our republic has begun to retrace, step by step, the march of folly that led to the fall of the British and every other great empire.

Today, America has become ensnared in a civil war in a Balkan peninsula where no U.S. army ever fought before, and no president ever asserted a vital interest. Daily, we plunge more deeply in.

Our motives were noble—to protect an abused people—but most now concede that we failed to weigh the risks of launching this war.

Among the lessons America should have learned from Vietnam, said General Colin Powell, is that before you commit the army, you must first commit the nation. We did not do that.

Now, it is said that as the credibility of NATO cannot survive defiance by tiny Serbia, we must do whatever needs to be done to win, even if it means ordering 100,000 U.S. ground troops into the Balkans. This sentiment was expressed by a columnist at the New York Times:

"It should be lights out in Belgrade; every power grid, water pipe, bridge, road . . . has to be targeted. Like it or not, we are at war with the Serbian nation . . . and the stakes have to be very clear: Every week you ravage Kosovo is another decade we will set you back by pulverizing you. You want 1950. We can do 1950. You want 1389. We can do 1389 too."

One cannot read that passage without recalling to mind the phrase, "the arrogance of power."

Now, Milosevic is a tyrant and a war criminal. But does America have the right to "pulverize" a nation that never attacked the United States? Did the Founding Fathers dedicate their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the cause of liberty, so that the republic they would create could emulate the empire they overthrew? Is it America's destiny to be the policemen of the world?

In his Farewell Address, our greatest president implored us to stay out of Europe's endless quarrels: "Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground?" Washington asked. "Why . . . entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European Ambition, Rivalship, Interest, Humour, or Caprice?"

When the Greeks rose in rebellion against the Ottoman Turks in a Balkan war, John Quincy Adams, our greatest Secretary of State advocated America's non-intervention.

"Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled," said Adams, "there will [America's] heart, her benedictions, and her prayers be. But she goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy."

Now that America is at war, all of us pray for the success and safe return of the men and women we have sent into battle. They are some of the best and bravest of our young. And no matter our disagreements, those are our sons and our daughters out there. But all of us, as citizens of a republic, must debate the decisions as to when, where, and whether to put their lives at risk.

This Balkan war is not the first time America has heard the siren's call to empire. A century ago, we heeded it, and annexed the Philippines. In the fall of 1898, leaders from Grover Cleveland to Sam Gompers implored us to resist the temptation.

"The fruits of imperialism, be they bitter or sweet," said William Jennings Bryan, "must be left to the subjects of monarchy. This is one tree of which citizens of a republic may not partake. It is the voice of the serpent, not the voice of God, that bids us eat."

America did not listen. And hard upon the annexation of the Philippines came the declaration of an Open Door policy in China, that plunged us into the politics of Asia, out of which would come war with Japan, war in Korea, and war in Vietnam.

Today, this generation is facing the same question. *Quo vadis, America? Whither goest thou, America?*

Will we conscript America's wealth and power to launch utopian crusades to reshape the world in America's image? Or shall we again follow the counsel of Washington and Adams, and keep our lamp burning bright on the Western shore?

Every citizen needs to take part in deciding the destiny of this republic, for we have now undertaken foreign commitments that no empire in history has ever sustained. We have assumed the role of German empire in keeping Russia out of Europe, of the Austrian empire in policing the Balkans, of the Ottoman empire in keeping peace in the Middle East, of the Japanese empire in containing China, of the British empire in patrolling the Gulf and maintaining freedom of the seas.

How long can America continue to defend scores of countries around the world on a defense budget that has fallen to the smallest share of the U.S. economy since before Pearl Harbor?

As we see a limited air war in the Balkans stretch U.S. power to where F-16s are cannibalized for spare parts, our Air Force runs low on laser-guided munitions, our Apache helicopters take weeks to be deployed, and our Pacific fleet is stripped of carriers, it is clear: The long neglect of America's military must come to an end.

We must restore this nation's military power, or we are headed for humiliations such as have marked the fall of every great nation that has ever embarked on the imperial course we now pursue.

America must retrench; and America must rearm. To make up for this lost decade, let us restore America's defenses to what they were when the decade began. Let us make our country, again, invincible on land, sea, and air, and build the missile defense that a great president, Ronald Reagan, sought as his legacy to America.

To be prepared for war, Washington reminded us, is the best guarantee of preserving peace.

But if there is cause for apprehension over what lies ahead, there is also cause for confidence and hope. That confidence, that hope, rests not only on the boundless resources of this providential land, but on the almost infinite capacity of the American people to rise and overcome any challenge with which history confronts them.

We, after all, are the heirs of the heroes who launched the world's first revolution for liberty. We are the sons and daughters of the great generation that brought us through the Depression and crushed fascism in Europe and Asia. We are the men and women who persevered and triumphed in a half century of Cold War against the most monstrous tyranny mankind has ever known.

Now the time of testing is coming for you. The America that this Class of '99 shall in-

herit is rich and prosperous and powerful, but also envied and resented.

And whether America retains into this new century what she carries out of this old on, depends now on your generation. Fifty years from now, at the end of your lives, you will look back, and say one of two things: Yes, we, too, made our contribution to the preservation of the greatest republic the world has ever seen. Or you will say that it was during your custodianship that the lamp began to flicker, that we began to follow inexorably in the footsteps of all the other great nations, down the staircase of history.

All, then, will come to depend on the character, and courage of this generation, for, as Churchill said, courage is the greatest of all virtues, because it alone makes all the others possible.

Last night at dinner, General Grinald's wife told me that when members of the graduating classes are asked what they will take away from the Citadel, almost invariably they say, "After going through the Citadel, I believe that I can do anything."

That is the spirit the Citadel instills, and that is the spirit America needs. Because you have gone through this Citadel that has always cherished duty, honor and country, you are more prepared than most of your generation for what lies ahead.

And the debt you owe the Citadel, the debt you owe your parents, the debt you owe your teachers, and all those who have gone before, is to be able to say, at the end of your lives: We, too, were faithful to the Citadel; we, too, did our duty; we, too, gave over to our children and their children the greatest country the world has ever known.

God bless the Citadel, and God bless the Class of '99. •

A MILESTONE FOR NEW MEXICO ACEQUIAS

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, since my early days as a Senator, I have worked with Northern New Mexicans who have irrigated apple orchards, chile crops, beans, and other subsistence commodities by using a unique system of irrigation that is native to New Mexico's high desert plateaus of the Rocky Mountains. For hundreds of years, Hispanics have channeled Rio Grande River water for their crops through a complex system of ditches. I first started working with these "acequia" associations in 1976, when we first brought their needs to the attention of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Water from the Rio Grande River has been carefully syphoned off to provide a basis for Hispanic life and culture for centuries. The annual rituals of cleaning, operating, and sharing this precious water have become an integral part of northern New Mexico's cultural life. Irrigators have formed alliances and cooperative agreements to meet the many water needs of the area. "Aequias," as they are known in Spanish, are the irrigation ditches that have given rise to centuries of critical life support systems.

Much of the beauty of cottonwood trees and apple orchards between Espanola and Taos was created by these man-made acequias. In addition to watering the orchards and fields, the acequias are a vital source of precious water for the old trees that also live off this water system.

The historic value of this system of cooperative watering is well known in northern New Mexico. In fact, when the acequia associations and I agreed to improve this system, our suggestions were resisted by State of New Mexico agencies on the grounds that concrete lining, for example, would alter the historic value of these acequias.

Of course, the state agency did not want to help with the expensive and frequent repairs and annual maintenance. They wanted the subsistence farmers to do this themselves, at their own expense.

Working with Las Nueve Acequias Steering Committee, and their excellent Chairman Wilfred Gutierrez, we are now celebrating a quarter century of overcoming bureaucratic barriers and making real improvements to this vast system of acequias. In the past twenty five years, I have been able to convince my colleagues in the Senate of the value of acequias to the economy and culture of northern New Mexico.

The Congress has been accepting of my proposals. At my urging, the Congress authorized a special program to make the needed physical improvements to acequias, while maintaining the traditional cooperative relationships. The traditional leader of an acequia is the "mayordomo." Mike Martinez, the current mayordomo of the Chicos ditch in Velarde was on hand to christen the latest section of improvements in late April. This event was a milestone that marks a quarter century of a vital partnership with the federal government to keep these acequias operable for the next century.

We are still a couple of years away from completing \$30 million worth of improvements in the Velarde area of New Mexico. Miles of acequias have been greatly improved in the past quarter century. I have been fortunate to have the support of my colleagues for many appropriations over all these years. In gratitude for the consistent support of my colleagues for funding these acequia projects, I would like them to see the attached newspaper article from the Rio Grande Sun, May 6, 1999, by Cynthia Miller, entitled, "After 25 Years, Acequia Project Finally Finished". This article gives us important insights into the value of the acequias to thousands of northern New Mexicans. After a quarter century of improvements, the acequia users and associations can continue to rely on this essential source of water for their lifestyles, and their livelihood.

I ask that this article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Rio Grande Sun, May 6, 1999]

AFTER 25 YEARS, ACEQUIA PROJECT FINALLY FINISHED

(By Cynthia Miller)

When the Chicos ditch in Velarde was opened April 28 during a ceremony to celebrate the completion of 3000 feet of improvement work, Las Nueve Acequias Steering Committee Chairman Wilfred Gutierrez said he witnessed not only the one ditch's

progress that day, but also the past 25 years of progress on a \$20 million federal project covering nine ditches in the area.

The 3000 feet of concrete piping from a Rio Grande dam up the Chicos marks one of the last stages of the project, Gutierrez said, estimating \$15 million in federal funds has been spent on the project so far.

He said the ditch was christened by acequia mayordomo Mike Martinez and several federal Bureau of Reclamation officials who gathered April 28 to watch as water was released from the newly lined dam for the first time this spring.

The pricey nine-ditch project was initiated in the 1970s, Gutierrez said, when residents of Velarde and surrounding communities rebelled against a \$28 million federal plan to build a canal from the Rio Grande to the Santa Cruz River.

The group successfully stopped the canal from going in and the community's irrigation water supply from going out, he said, and then members got some ideas of their own. "People started asking me why couldn't we use some of that money to rehabilitate our acequias?"

Gutierrez said the farmers in the area were always putting time, money and labor into rebuilding dams and ditches which were washed away by heavy river flows, and fixing spots where muskrats, crawfish and other wildlife dug holes.

Rather than constantly rebuild the acequias just to see them destroyed again, the community members wanted to improve the ditches in a way that would be more permanent and would require less strenuous maintenance efforts, he said.

In 1976 officers from the nine acequias organized into the Las Nueve Acequias Steering Committee and asked Gutierrez to serve as chairman, he said. The group then sought U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici's help in securing Bureau of Reclamation funds for their ditch improvement projects.

Following a Bureau of Reclamation feasibility study around 1980, he said, it was determined that the work would cost about \$20 million. Funds began to come in and plans were made to get started.

The first and most crucial phase was to build new dams, Gutierrez said. "Before that, it was just the old ones that the Spanish and the Indians built. Literally, we were just washing money down the river."

With each heavy rain, he said, the dams just washed away and had to be rebuilt.

Seven new permanent dams were built by Las Nueve Acequias and the Bureau of Reclamation to replace the nine previous dams, he said, and then work was started on lining ditches and creating other structures.

He explained the group is set up so that each ditch has its own officers to make decisions on what work it wants done.

"What's nice about this project is that it's up to the people in the acequias to determine what they want. They have to make the request," he said, adding he has served from the start as an at-large representative of the steering committee.

He represents no individual acequia, he said, and works instead for the good of all nine.

Part of his work has included overcoming obstacles standing in the way of ditch improvements, such as the state Environment Department and the state Game and Fish Department's objections to ditch work, Gutierrez said.

The departments wanted the ditches to remain in their more natural states.

"They wanted the acequias to exist like before, but they didn't realize how expensive it was. And they didn't want to help fix them," he said. "They wanted the acequia groups to be burdened with the expense of keeping the acequias as they had existed."

Gutierrez said he was glad to see the project is nearing its completion.

"When we started it, we thought we could finish it in eight years," he said, "and it's taken 25. . . . We'd like to finish this project in the next two years."

Gutierrez said Las Nueve Acequias has plans to do more work on its ditches this fall.●

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNER

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the week of May 9, 1999 is National Hospital Week, when communities across the country celebrate the people that make hospitals the special places they are. This year's theme sums it up nicely: "People Care, Miracles Happen." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Sexual Assault Response of Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster, California. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence for 1999, which highlights special contributions of hospital volunteers.

The Sexual Assault Response Service is a team of hospital volunteers that offers specialized assistance to sexual assault victims, families, hospital personnel and law enforcement agencies. To meet the program's high standards, volunteers get more than 60 hours of training.

Responding to a call from any area hospital emergency department, they provide support to victims while helping to solicit histories, preparing evidence collection kits, assisting with medical and legal examinations, and overseeing the completion of state forms. Volunteers work with the district attorney's office throughout the court process and offer one-on-one counseling, a referral service, a lending library and community education.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate Antelope Valley Hospital for this award-winning effort and for their generous contributions to their community.●

IN RECOGNITION OF CFIDS AWARENESS DAY

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association of Lehigh Valley in fighting Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS), or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

Through a tireless effort, the CFS Association of Lehigh Valley is committed to finding a cure for CFIDS, increasing public awareness and providing support for victims of this disease. Public education is an integral part of the association's mission, and the Lehigh Valley organization works to raise awareness through the International CFIDS Awareness Day, which