

all day with our children. I have children in sixth grade and eighth grade classes today. My children go to public schools, but I want them to go to good schools. Their public schools are good schools. They have wonderful, committed teachers. I want that to be the case in every part of our country.

One of the specific interests I have in the bill that we are going to be debating is the issuance of school report cards. I am joining a number of my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—to work on a school report card that will go to parents, so that parents know which schools are failing and which are succeeding.

The fact is, we all get report cards on our kids. We know how our kids are doing in math, in science, civics. We know that because they go to school, they come back home, and then they get a report card every 6 weeks to 9 weeks. And that report card says: Here is how your son or daughter did in mathematics. And it is an A, B, C, D or, God forbid, an F, but it is an assessment of how that child is doing.

There is no similar uniform requirement for American parents or taxpayers to get a grade on how well their school is doing.

How is my school doing versus a school in the next county or another school in the same city, or how are the schools doing in my State versus school systems in another State. Don't we deserve the opportunity to see how well we are doing? Shouldn't we have an assessment of how well the schools are doing? How about a report card for schools? Some States have report cards, but their contents are wildly diverse. There is no consistency at all, and there is no capability for parents to get a good measurement.

School report cards ought to include graduation and retention rates. That has something to do with evaluating whether schools are serving our kids well. Qualifications of teachers, average class size, school safety, parental involvement, those are some of the pieces of information we can give parents and taxpayers to provide them an understanding of what we are getting from this school system of ours. Are we getting what we want from the school system? Are children getting what they need from the school system?

Our rural schools face some unique challenges that we need to help them address. Many of my colleagues come from areas where the need to reduce class size is crucial because there are so many children coming into the school system they can't handle them, but many rural schools have the opposite problem. Last week, I mentioned that my hometown is closing its high school. My hometown high school is closing. They had the last high school prom on April 7.

When I graduated many years ago, I was in a high school class of nine. Now, of course, there are not enough students in those four grades in that high school to continue the school. Those

kids will be going to neighboring towns to high school. They held their last prom and will hold those memories for many years, but the Regent High School will no longer exist.

In rural counties, the issue is: how do you pay for a school in which you have nine students in a grade or in some cases two or three students in a grade. That is a separate issue, one we should be concerned about as well.

There are many challenges. But in this debate, unlike some others, everyone will come to the floor wanting the same thing. We share exactly the same goal. We want to do well by our children and to have the finest school system in the world. Some will say: You can't throw money at it. I agree with that. But we can't expect to do what we want for our children without being willing to fund some of the needs as well. That is the other side of the coin.

Some will say: The way to solve this issue is just to provide vouchers and let parents take their children to private schools if they want to do that. Of course, those who say that went to a school that taught arithmetic that was different than my arithmetic. The numbers just don't add up. If you give someone a \$1,500 voucher and that is all, can a student show up at a private school and be welcomed with open arms. Does the private school say: Welcome, we can provide a really good education for \$1,500. That just does not happen. Private schools are much more expensive than that. If we are truly going to decide to leave no child behind, how can we possibly suggest that the solution to a bad school is to take the few kids out of that school who are given a voucher and leave all the rest of the kids behind. That is not "leave no child behind." That is just leaving whole schools behind.

We can do a lot better than that. The country expects us to do better than that.

Some will search for simple answers when, in fact, the answers are not always very simple. This requires our attention.

It is time to address this issue. It is time for us to debate, offer amendments, and reach a consensus in the Senate about what direction we want the country to go with respect to the education of our children.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. the clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent there be a pe-

riod of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF ROBERT LANGSTON

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of my good friend and committed public servant, Chief Robert E. Langston, upon his retirement from the U.S. Park Police Force. After 35 years on the force, including the last 10 years as chief, Robert Langston stepped down earlier this month a day prior to his 60th birthday, the mandatory retirement age for all Park Police officers. He leaves behind an impressive legacy of dedication, integrity, commitment, and success as the leader of one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the country.

Robert Langston was born and raised in Washington, D.C., and joined the Park Police shortly after he graduated from Florida State University at the young age of 24 years old. Through hard work and dedication he gradually ascended to the impressive rank of U.S. Park Police Chief.

As chief, he oversaw the policing of the national park grounds in Washington, New York, and San Francisco. He worked tirelessly and sacrificed much in order to ensure the safety of the thousands who used or visited these grounds, and the agency flourished under his leadership. Chief Langston consistently went above the call of duty to make sure all Americans, and anyone visiting our Nation from abroad, would be safe while on the national park grounds.

He is to be commended for his exemplary service to the U.S. Park Police Department, and to this fine Nation. The force is stronger because of Chief Langston's dedicated leadership, and he can take great pride in all that he accomplished during his noteworthy tenure. Chief Langston has made countless contributions to the U.S. Park Police Department during his distinguished career. He has been a friend, teacher, and a model of excellence to the many fine men and women who had the honor to serve alongside Chief Langston. Bob Langston is a great man and a truly great American. He was an asset to the U.S. Park Police, and I am certain that though his presence will be missed, his influence will continue for generations to come.

BRINGING SOUTH DAKOTA'S STRENGTH TO THE WORLD'S CHALLENGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I share with my colleagues a summary of the key findings from our recent official congressional delegation trip to North Africa, Turkey, Greece and Macedonia. Those findings are outlined below, and they relate to opportunities

for trade and investment in North Africa as well as prospects for rapprochement between Turkey and Greece and the admirable efforts of our troops to bring peace and stability to Kosovo. I have already shared these findings with the Secretaries of Defense and State and am glad to do so now with our colleagues in Congress. We had a number of substantive discussions on this trip that I believe will contribute to U.S. policy in these two important regions of the world.

I am proud of, and grateful to, all the American personnel with whom we worked. They facilitated the educational value of the trip and are true ambassadors for their country abroad.

I especially want to call the Senate's attention to the South Dakotans I visited on this trip. On a daily basis, South Dakotans are improving the lives of people struggling with drought in southern Morocco and picking up the pieces after ethnic conflict in Kosovo. I am impressed by the way individual South Dakotans are helping people throughout the world get another chance at a better life.

In 1999 and 2000, Morocco suffered its most severe drought in a decade. Drought in Morocco, where 20 percent of the GDP is accounted for by agriculture, and roughly half the population is employed in agriculture, extracts a steep human toll.

In that environment, experienced farmers, who have lived through and conquered the challenges of drought, can be the key to saving a crop, not to mention lives. Imagine the good fortune for the Moroccan community just outside of Essaouira when they were assigned two Peace Corps volunteers from Brookings, South Dakota, with several decades of experience in farming. Just a few years ago, after raising their children and putting them through school, Frances and Harris Davis sold their family farm in Elkton, SD and joined the Peace Corps. They joined, in the words of Fran Harris, to give back some of the blessings they had received in their years as farmers in Elkton.

For more than two years, family by family, the Davises have been improving the lives of countless Moroccans. They have helped Moroccans with land and water management in the midst of a crippling drought. Because tools are scarce in their region, they have become a resource to cash-strapped farmers throughout southeastern Morocco. And using the experience they gained making their own farm vehicles work, they have even been mechanics for numerous vehicles, including the water truck in a thirsty town.

Not only are the people they have helped much better off. The United States, because of the goodwill that Fran and Harris have generated, is also better off.

And the same is true of the three South Dakotans, and their families, I met at Incirlik Air Base in Adana, Turkey. These individuals are key mem-

bers of U.S. Operation Northern Watch, ONW, an operation that has been successful in protecting Turkey's Kurdish minority for much of the last decade.

Col. Maurice H. Forsythe, born in Brookings and a graduate of South Dakota State University, was deployed to Incirlik with his wife Tamara and their son Riley. Colonel Forsythe was Combined Forces Air Component Commander for Operation Northern Watch, coordinating all flight activity out of Incirlik. Notwithstanding an Iraqi bounty of \$14,000 for any Iraqi who downs a ONW aircraft, the U.S., Great Britain, Turkey coalition has not yet lost an aircraft, a tribute to Col. Forsythe's leadership and hard work.

Captain Pat Castle, of Sioux Falls, was deployed to Incirlik last year. While Captain Castle fulfills his duty with the Air Force, he and his wife Angie are also raising their 1-year-old daughter Paige on the base at Incirlik. Senior Airman Krissy Sayles of Lead, SD, was also deployed to Incirlik late last year from Shaw AFB in South Carolina. Krissy Sayles provides logistical support to the U.S. and British personnel and airplanes that are enforcing the no-fly zone in Iraq and has provided the same service in assignments throughout the Middle East. Compounding her sacrifice, her husband, also in the Air Force, remains in the U.S. while Senior Airman Sayles works halfway around the world in Turkey.

Paul E. Poletes, also of Sioux Falls, is a diplomat in the U.S. Foreign Service stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Athens. Paul Poletes is responsible for making sure that U.S. personnel in Athens have the infrastructure they need to advance U.S. interests in Greece and the European Union. Paul and his wife were recently assigned to Bangladesh, where he will work to advance the interests of the United States as well as help Bangladeshis, one of the world's poorest countries.

Our delegation also visited Camp Able Sentry in Skopje, Macedonia to meet with the U.S. and NATO personnel who have done so much to stabilize Kosovo. U.S. Army Sergeant Jonnie D. Larsen, a 1989 graduate of Menno High School, was deployed to Kosovo with his battalion from Baumholder, Germany. U.S. Army Platoon Sergeant Michael Mewherter, from Bowdle, SD and a 1987 graduate of Clear Lake High School, was also deployed to Kosovo from Fort Bragg, NC.

Among the many compliments for the hard work of Americans serving in Kosovo we heard on our trip, two stand out. The first was from KFOR Commander, Italian General Cabigiosu, who said the U.S. component was the glue that kept NATO's KFOR together. And the second is from the children of Kosovo, who admire Sergeant Larsen, Staff Sergeant Mewherter and the rest of the American servicemen and women as the force that returned their stability and their future.

We ask our servicemen and women like Jonnie Larsen and Michael

Mewherter to do a lot. Time and again, including this time, when both these young men were deployed to Kosovo for several months without their families, they respond.

Americans from each and every state are having a positive impact on the lives of people the world over. I was fortunate to see how these seven individuals from South Dakota have done such a fine job. Their efforts make me proud, America stronger and the world better.

I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the key findings from our recent official congressional delegation trip to North Africa, Turkey, Greece and Macedonia be inserted in the RECORD at the close of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

CODEL DASCHLE TO MOROCCO, TURKEY, GREECE, MACEDONIA AND PORTUGAL, FEBRUARY 16-25, 2001

From February 16 to February 25, Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, SD, led a Senate delegation on an official visit to Morocco, Turkey, Greece, Macedonia and Portugal. The delegation also included Sen. Harry Reid, NV, Sen. Tom Harkin, IA, Sen. Kent Conrad, ND, Sen. Byron Dorgan, ND, and Sen. Barbara Boxer, CA. This trip report summarizes the findings of that trip.

Summary of key findings:

The U.S.-North Africa economic partnership initiative, commonly referred to as the Eisenstat Initiative, is valuable effort to advance American trade and investment in a growing market. With 80 million people and a combined GDP of \$137 billion, there are good opportunities for U.S. companies to invest and trade in the countries of North Africa, and U.S. firms are beginning to reap the benefits of this initiative. U.S. firms are expanding in the energy, aircraft and telecom sectors in Morocco alone.

The U.S. should give consideration to other creative ideas in order to boost American involvement in North Africa markets, including debt for equity swaps. In any case, aggressive promotion of U.S. exporters and investors is a necessary counter to the traditional ties—and aggressive subsidies, of European influence in North Africa.

The American and British personnel that operate in Iraqi air space to enforce the no fly zone and to monitor Iraqi compliance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions do so at great risk.

The delegation is concerned that there is not an appreciation within Washington—in the Administration and in the Congress, for the extreme risk that American personnel undertake daily.

The bombing in southern Iraq above the 33rd parallel on February 16 was a justifiable response to increased Iraqi efforts to target U.S. and British planes, but the delegation expresses its strong regret that the Bush Administration did not consult, or even notify, Congress of the planned bombings. Given the strong international criticism of the containment of Iraq—which the delegation encountered during its trip—it behooves the Bush Administration to consult more closely with Congress so as to ensure domestic consensus on this critical issue.

The delegation is concerned that, two weeks after the initial disagreement that gave rise to the economic crisis in Turkey, there is as yet no plan to get Turkey's economy back on track. The underlying strength of the Turkish economy as well as the perseverance of the Turkish people will be tremendous assets in developing that plan.

In Greece, the government is taking important steps toward confronting the threat of terrorism in that country. Cooperation with international forces is increasing, but ultimately results in the fight against terrorism will be the key to easing U.S. concern about terrorism in Greece.

The delegation was impressed with, and proud of, the clear and positive impact of U.S. personnel in Kosovo. U.S. personnel make up a relatively small portion of the overall KFOR force, representing less than 15 percent of the total force and the trend of U.S. portion of the force is due to continue decreasing (the U.S. component will represent just 13 percent of the total force by 2001).

The U.S. and NATO leadership believe that the U.S. should maintain a presence in Kosovo for the foreseeable future. The U.S. leadership feared that a pull out of American forces would not only risk the successes to date in the Balkans, but that it would be a major blow to the NATO alliance.

The U.S. personnel involved in KFOR, from the general officers to the enlisted, also strongly touted the training benefits of this deployment, calling it the best possible training U.S. personnel can get. The U.S. leadership maintained that morale among U.S. forces in Kosovo is "sky high" and reported that re-enlistment rates among Army personnel in Kosovo is higher than anywhere else.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

Today, I would like to detail a heinous crime that occurred July 4, 2000 in Grant Town, WV. Arthur "J.R." Carl Warren Jr., 26, an openly gay African American man, was brutally murdered. Warren, whose body was found on the edge of his hometown, was allegedly killed by two 17-year-old boys. Known to call Warren names considered racial epithets and anti-gay slurs, the boys allegedly beat him and repeatedly kicked him with steel-toed boots. They threw him in a car and drove across town, ignoring his pleas to be taken home, which they passed on the way to the gravel pullout where they savagely kicked him and then ultimately killed him by driving back and forth over him. Neither current federal law nor West Virginia's hate crimes law include sexual orientation.

Mr. President, I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens—to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG MISSION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Caucus on

International Narcotics Control, I rise to commend the counterdrug efforts of the National Guard. The National Guard performs vital work to assist law enforcement with interdiction/eradication operations, including the manufacture, sale, use and importation, and demand reduction for drugs throughout our country.

Every day the National Guard has approximately 3,600 personnel on duty performing counterdrug work. The National Guard supports the President's counterdrug priorities, with special emphasis along the Southwest Border and designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs). In addition, the Governor of each State can assign the National Guard to unique local issues. Skills the National Guard brings include personnel, specialized vehicles and military equipment, logistical support, thermal imaging, intelligence analysis, translation, searching cargo containers at ports of entry, and listening/observation posts. Federal agencies typically supported include the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Customs Service, and the Border Patrol, while State and local agencies include highway patrols, country sheriffs, and local police departments.

The Department of Defense is prohibited by U.S. Code Title 10, under the Posse Comitatus Act, from military personnel enforcing State and local laws. The National Guard, under its United States Code Title 32 status, does not have this prohibition, although National Guard regulations do not allow direct involvement in law enforcement, such as arrest, apprehension, search and seizure. Since 1988, the Governor of each State submits a plan each year to the Department of Defense outlining the proposed use of the National Guard in support of counterdrug efforts. Currently, about 50 percent of the requests are able to be funded.

The National Guard also has an active demand reduction mission geared to helping youth avoid starting to use illegal drugs. These programs include involvement in schools and working with parent and community based anti-drug organizations. National Guard personnel serve as excellent citizen-soldier role models and also assist with mentoring, speakers bureaus, Adopt-A-School, Red Ribbon, and PRIDE events. Last year the National Guard had contact with tens of thousands of youth.

I am proud of the role the National Guard and its citizen-soldiers performs in our vital counterdrug programs.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, April 27, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,678,255,839,065.80, five trillion, six hundred seventy-eight billion, two hundred fifty-five million, eight hundred thirty-nine thousand, sixty-five dollars and eighty cents.

One year ago, April 27, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,680,311,000,000, five trillion, six hundred eighty billion, three hundred eleven million.

Twenty-five years ago, April 27, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$600,159,000,000, six hundred billion, one hundred fifty-nine million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,078,096,839,065.80, five trillion, seventy-eight billion, ninety-six million, eight hundred thirty-nine thousand, sixty-five dollars and eighty cents during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LARRY FAVINGER

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Larry Favinger of York, ME, on the occasion of his retirement from the Portsmouth Herald newspaper.

For thirty-five years, Larry has enjoyed an illustrious career as a journalist with the Portsmouth Herald serving as a news reporter, sports editor and city editor for the newspaper. Larry has been a mainstay at the newspaper and has earned the respect and admiration of his peers. Early in the 1990's Larry opened the York bureau of the Portsmouth Herald and worked to establish the Herald's identity as a newspaper in Maine as well as one in New Hampshire.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with Larry on the issues that affect the citizens of New Hampshire, especially those which concern the Portsmouth Shipyard. Larry has always approached the issues that we have discussed with professionalism and fairness. I am proud to have known him and to have worked with him during my tenure in public office.

An exemplary community contributor, Larry has been active in following the progress of hometown young people in athletic and cultural activities, always supporting their achievements by writing updates for Herald readers to enjoy.

I also commend Larry for his service to his state and nation in the United States Air Force, where he served in Japan and was stationed at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve Larry Favinger in the United States Senate. I wish him and his wife, Rose Ann, Godspeed in his retirement and in all of their future endeavors.●

IN RECOGNITION OF SAUL A. GREEN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to speak today to acknowledge a lawyer, from my home State of Michigan, who has dedicated his life to serving the citizens of Detroit, Saul A. Green. On May 2nd of this year, hundreds of people will gather to pay tribute to Saul A. Green for his service as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan.