

women, the exploitation of children or crimes against humanity or asking the Mexican Congress to ratify the Statute of Rome creating the International Criminal Court; and an agreement for the establishment of a regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Mexico. But they are also, first and foremost, actions that seek to guarantee that international surveillance on these issues will strengthen democracy and human rights at home.

Ladies and Gentlemen: By overcoming authoritarian rule, Mexico is leaving behind its former defensive attitude and reaching out to the world in search for a new identity, just as Spain did more than 25 years ago. But while the similarities between the Spanish and the Mexican transitions are significant, the differences are equally revealing.

Whereas Spaniards were able to come to terms with their authoritarian past, Mexicans have yet to achieve reconciliation and a common sense of purpose of its real and longstanding democratic institutions by addressing the grievances of recent past history. Whereas the Spanish people immediately experienced the tangible benefits afforded by EEC membership, through infrastructure and cohesion funds aimed at overcoming backwardness and establishing a level playing field within the Community, Mexican society has yet to fully realize the enormous advantages to be gained by establishing similar mechanisms to boost economic and social development in Mexico and by embracing the idea of a North American community. Whereas Spain was able to anchor its democratic transition in an existing European Community, Mexico must strive to build the institutions of true North American Community. And whereas Spain's entry in the EEC impinged upon Spanish sovereignty, as indeed it affected the sovereignty of all other EEC members, NAFTA, a truly Anglo-Saxon institution, left domestic politics and social policy, two fundamental attributes of sovereignty, largely untouched.

This latter point is crucial. Mexico, today, as Spain purposefully did back in the eighties, seeks supranational rules and regulations that bind and ensure its democratic transition and enhance its prosperity and ensure its democratic stability. This seems to me a more than fair trade off.

The jury is still out on Mexico's democratic consolidation. If we are to succeed, the leaders of all major political parties in Mexico must have the courage to put some of their differences aside and work together for a common purpose. But our North American partners must also show themselves willing to take on the challenge of developing a new vision for our region, one that can radically change for the better the lives of millions of people throughout Mexico, the U.S. and Canada.

If there has been a clear and consistent trait throughout the world in recent decades, it is the tendency towards integration, which in turn has resulted in stronger democratic institutions and the adherence to basic universal standards of behavior. This is not a spontaneous or natural process, even though there may be historical forces at play. Rather, it must be complemented by deliberate action. This is exactly what the government of President Fox has set out to achieve: to use foreign policy as a crowbar to open up our country and help consolidate democracy and change human rights in Mexico. Succeeding in this endeavor is not only critical for Mexico; it is an issue of central importance to the future of North America, to our hemisphere and to the rest of the international community.

Let me conclude by quoting the Spanish-British historian Charles Powell, who ends his splendid work on the history of Spain after Franco by stating—not without some

British reserve and understatement—that “it would be unfair not to acknowledge that what was achieved [by this transition] undoubtedly constitutes a cause for collective pride”.

I sincerely hope that, 26 years from now, a future historian of Mexico can express similar feelings about our transition to democracy. It is this hope that spurs many of us in government, and throughout society at large, to do everything we can to ensure that our country lives up to its present challenge. And I am sure that all of you will understand why we in Mexico wholeheartedly believe that it is a cause that our partners should also embrace.

Thank you.

THE PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2002

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, the spectacular collapse of the Enron Corporation has broken lives, shattered dreams and shaken confidence in our financial markets and in several professions. From what we know so far, it appears that the fall of Enron involves malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance on the part of very many people. There may ultimately be criminal prosecutions, civil fines, and partial restitution. It may take years to sort out all of the problems and for Congress to enact appropriate solutions.

Although the Enron investigations and lawsuits are ongoing, we have learned several lessons in the area of employee retirement security that can be addressed swiftly and responsibly. I am pleased to join my colleagues Senators TIM HUTCHINSON and TRENT LOTT in introducing the Pension Security Act of 2002. This legislation creates important new protections and rights for working Americans that give them the tools to enhance their own retirement planning and security.

The measure includes new safeguards and options to help workers preserve and enhance their retirement security, and insists on greater accountability from companies and senior corporate executives during “blackout” periods when rank-and-file workers are unable to make changes to their retirement accounts.

Under the Pension Security Act, workers would have more freedom to diversify their investments, much greater access to high quality investment advice, advance notice before blackout periods, more information about their pensions, and other tools they can use to maximize the potential of their 401(k) plans and ensure a secure retirement future.

The bill also clarifies that employers have a fiduciary responsibility for the security of workers' investments during “blackout” periods and bars senior corporate executives from selling their own stock at times when rank-and-file workers cannot make changes to their 401(k) accounts.

The bill strikes an important balance between preserving employee free choice and opportunity in the voluntary retirement savings system and protecting individuals from the wrongful acts of others. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to

join with us in enacting these important reforms.

SENATOR TED KENNEDY'S 70TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I am most honored to express my congratulations to my dear friend, Senator TED KENNEDY, as he celebrates his 70th birthday. He and I joined the Senate chamber 40 years ago, and it has been my privilege to serve alongside this great man over the years.

Senator KENNEDY has championed health insurance and education reform, defended the rights of the elderly and workers, strengthened civil rights, and protected our natural resources. He has proudly and ably carried on his family's legacy of public service.

I wish to thank Senator KENNEDY for his outstanding service to his home State of Massachusetts and to our Nation. I extend my best wishes to him for many more years of good health, memorable experiences, and continued success.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have taken to the Senate floor to offer heartfelt tributes and best wishes to our esteemed colleague and friend, the senior Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) as he celebrates his 70th birthday. While prior commitments precluded my participation in yesterday's bipartisan tribute, I wanted to take a moment to offer my congratulations to Senator KENNEDY.

For 40 of his 70 years, TED KENNEDY has worked for the people of Massachusetts and America in the United States Senate. During that time, through hard work, consensus building and perseverance, with great wit and charm, and, on many memorable occasions, passionate oratory, TED KENNEDY has established himself as one of the most effective legislators of the 20th century and a champion for equality, opportunity, and justice for all Americans.

When I was appointed to the Senate in 1990, we were considering the Americans With Disabilities Act, one of the many landmark civil rights bills that TED KENNEDY has helped to inspire and craft, guide through Congress, and become law. For as long as I have been in public service, TED KENNEDY has been a powerful voice and an advocate for those who are most vulnerable in our Nation. On issues ranging from civil rights, voting rights, equal rights for women, equal protection for all Americans regardless of gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation, Americans with disabilities, access to health care, quality education for all children, workers' rights, patients' rights, a decent minimum wage, food stamps, or equal justice for all Americans, TED KENNEDY has been at the forefront of the battles for equal opportunity for all Americans, for fairness, for justice.

In 1963, speaking on civil rights for African Americans, President Kennedy

said that "every American ought to have the right to be treated as he would wish to be treated, as one would wish his children to be treated. This is not the case." Throughout his illustrious career, TED KENNEDY has worked to ensure that all Americans are treated fairly, are treated with respect and dignity. His work in the Senate has helped us move forward as a people and Nation toward the vision of America that President Kennedy and Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY spoke about with such eloquence. His effectiveness in forging bipartisan partnerships to advance the causes and issues he cares so much about is legendary. As the Majority Leader said, TED KENNEDY is the master of the principled compromise. In doing so, TED inspires those of us lucky enough to serve with him with his dedication, persistence and hard work, and he has earned the admiration, respect, and love of people across America.

As both a colleague and friend, no one is more generous with his time or considerate than Ted Kennedy. The senior Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and some of my colleagues mentioned that in some parts of their states being accused of voting too much like TED KENNEDY is a standard political reproach. In Hawaii, a comparison to TED KENNEDY is a badge of honor. In 1990, I was appointed to the Senate in May, and was campaigning for election in November. My race was extremely close, and the Senate was in session until the last week of October working on the Federal budget. Then President George H.W. Bush and other national leaders had come to the islands to campaign for my opponent. TED KENNEDY agreed to campaign with me in Hawaii right before the election. His appearance energized the voters, and sparked a surge in the polls that broke open a close race. In fact, on election night, TED KENNEDY was the first person to call with congratulations based on exit poll projections he had received.

In the history of the Senate, there have been few Senators whose record of accomplishments, whose hard work, whose contributions to building a more perfect Union, equals that of the senior Senator from Massachusetts. I am proud to serve with him in the Senate and fortunate to call him a friend. It is with the deepest admiration and profound aloha that I wish TED, hau'oli la hanau, a most Happy Birthday. May you have many more. God bless you.

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 in March of last year. 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.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred May 16, 1993 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Three gay men were brutally assaulted by five assailants. The attackers used bottles and an aluminum baseball bat to beat the victims.

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.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, this week marks the 90th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. With over 300,000 members and 1,500 chapters across the country, Hadassah is the largest women's and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. Over the last nine decades, its devoted members have exhibited the best of the American philanthropic and volunteer spirit in pursuing the organization's mission of a peaceful and secure Israel, a vital Jewish culture, and the Jewish imperative for social justice.

Today in Israel, Hadassah continues to add to a well-established humanitarian record that has fostered peace, understanding, and prosperity for all Israeli citizens. The Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) operates two hospitals, ninety outpatient clinics, and numerous community health centers that provide state of the art health care to 600,000 patients a year—regardless of race, religion, or creed. These medical facilities often treat the most critically wounded in the region's ongoing conflicts and the support they receive from Hadassah members allows them to save lives. The HMO reaches out beyond Israel, providing medical personnel and training during international health crises, enhancing the welfare of communities around the globe.

Here in United States, Hadassah's women's health and education initiatives have enhanced the health and well being of the American Jewish community and our Nation. Its informative awareness campaigns on breast cancer, osteoporosis, and eating disorders have empowered women of all ages to make healthy lifestyle decisions. Hadassah has strengthened American Jewish culture through sponsorship of Jewish and Hebrew educational classes and study groups.

Mr. President, for ninety years Hadassah has brought Jewish-American women together to explore their shared faith and connection to Israel. On this week of their 90th anniversary, I commend their good work and wish them many more years of success.

ERIC BERGOUST APPRECIATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Eric Bergoust, a dis-

tinguished freestyle skier from Missoula MT. At the age of 31, Eric has attained nearly every milestone that inspires athletes to achieve their dreams. He is an Olympic champion, a world champion, and has held numerous world records throughout his career. As impressive as his accomplishments are, the passion Eric has for his sport is truly remarkable. Passion shines brightest through innovations, and Eric has made many. He has landed unprecedented jumps throughout his career, and has developed a one-armed take off style that has opened up new possibilities to all freestyle skiers.

Like so many of his fellow Montanans, Eric has achieved great things through both his appreciation of the virtues of a will-do attitude and the determination to follow through on a task. These assets led Eric down the seemingly improbable path from a boy jumping off the roof of his house into a mattress pile, to a young man driving alone from Montana to Lake Placid with only makeshift skis and ten dollars in his pocket, to an Olympic and world champion. It has been exciting to see Eric accomplish so many things. But when I consider the determination and passion that have pushed Eric along, it has become clear that maybe his path really wasn't so improbable after all.

2002 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Black History Month, a 76-year tradition recognizing and celebrating the contributions of African-Americans throughout our history.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the son of former slaves, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago in my home State of Illinois, before continuing his studies at Harvard University and the Sorbonne in Paris. Since African-American history had barely begun to be studied or even documented, Dr. Woodson established what is now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History and founded the Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he started Negro History Week and chose the second week of February because it marks the birthdays of two men who have had a great impact on African-Americans: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Woodson and those who have followed him, we now celebrate the outstanding achievements of African-Americans past and present during the entire month of February.

Illinois has a rich African-American legacy. Gwendolyn Brooks was the first African-American poet to win the Pulitzer Prize, and in 1968, she was named the poet laureate of Illinois. In 1985-86, she was the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress and focused her efforts on encouraging elementary school students to write poetry.