

went into purchases and acquisitions that our people made by using some or all of the refinance bonus they received because their equity was long.

Lower energy prices contributed to this occurring. Now we are noticing that they are beginning to go up again, rather dramatically—in fact, too much. We must send a signal to those who would arbitrarily do that—and they are—that we are busy producing an energy bill in both the House and Senate that will have an impact on that kind of capriciousness they exercise against our people through the economy they adversely affect.

Does this mean we have nothing to worry about regarding the economy? I don't think so. Another strike by terrorists could again do a great deal of harm both to investors and to consumers and, in particular, to confidence. Probably it would be even a little more lasting than the last one because the strike on September 11 was obviously a total surprise. Another strike of that magnitude or bigger would prove we are vulnerable even when we are more vigilant.

We also have to be concerned about the flow of oil from the Middle East. There are those who would like to see a much wider area of conflagration in that region, if for no other reason than to hurt the United States. We have to apply our best efforts to ensure that this does not happen. But apart from these potential negative shocks, the economy seems to be recovering and looks poised to enter a period of quite respectable economic growth—not a boom, but that is all right.

Now it is our job to make sure we continue to focus on policies that will maximize the long-term growth potential of our economy, including strong national defense, homeland security, energy independence, as much as we can do, and free trade. We also need to start paying attention to simplifying and streamlining our Tax Code. It will not wait forever.

Together these policies will put us in the best position to face the challenges ahead and improve the living standards of the American people.

HISTORICAL PUBLICATION AWARD

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I am very pleased to note that a recent Senate publication has won a prestigious award. At its forthcoming annual meeting, the Society for History in the Federal Government will present its George Pendleton Award to Senate Historical Editor Wendy Wolff and the Senate Historical Office for the book entitled *Capitol Builder: The Shorthand Journals of Montgomery C. Meigs, 1853-1861*. The Pendleton Award is given annually for "an outstanding major publication on the Federal Government's history produced by or for a Federal history program." It commemorates former U.S. Senator George Pendleton, who sponsored the 1883 civil service reform act that bears his name.

As an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Montgomery Meigs supervised construction of the current Senate and House wings and the Capitol dome. During this project, Meigs kept a detailed journal of his activities, written in an obscure shorthand and only recently transcribed. This publication provides rich new information on construction of the Capitol extension, and on politics and life in mid-nineteenth-century Washington.

The Meigs transcription and publication project has been a collaborative effort among a number of congressional offices over the past decade, including the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Library of Congress. William Mohr, a retired Senate Official Reporter of Debates, translated the shorthand, with financial support provided by the Senate Bicentennial Commission and the U.S. Capitol Historical Society.

This project has been guided through to completion by the Senate's very able historian, Dr. Richard Baker, and his dedicated staff. The idea originated in 1991 when Joe Stewart was Secretary of the Senate. It was Joe Stewart who ensured that the resources were made available to bring this fascinating history to the American public. It should be noted that Dr. Baker is the first Senate historian and he has set a high standard indeed for every Senate historian who will follow in his footsteps. We in the Democratic Caucus have been pleased to listen to Dr. Baker's "history minutes" each Tuesday at the start of our regular weekly conferences. He has given us a deeper appreciation of the challenges previous Senators faced, the rich traditions of the Senate, and also the humor exhibited in past times. His stewardship of this project has been justly rewarded by the awarding of the George Pendleton Award to the Montgomery Meigs Journals.

Copies of this 900-page book are available from the Government Printing Office and the Senate Gift Shop. I highly recommend it to my colleagues and to anyone else who treasures the Capitol.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam 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 June 21, 1997 in Lansing, MI. Two gay men were attacked with blow darts. The assailants, who targeted the victims because of their sexual orientation, were arrested in connection with the incident.

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I would like to congratulate the Girl Scouts of America on their 90th anniversary. The Girl Scouts began on March 12, 1912, when founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls in Savannah, GA, for the first ever Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Girl Scouts of America has a current membership of more than three million girls and adults, 150,000 of whom live in Michigan. There are also more than 50 million Girl Scout alumnae throughout our nation. Girl Scouts serve their communities, developing skills in a diverse array of activities including sports, media relations, education and science while growing into the leaders of tomorrow.

One of this year's Young Women of Distinction is Ms. Noorain Khan from Grand Rapids, MI. To earn this distinction she worked on many projects including one with the Islamic Center of Grand Rapids which serves a community of 13,000 Muslims. She helped develop a grant proposal for a program to educate Muslim youth about their religion and culture, and better equip them to make responsible decisions as adults. Her grant proposal consisted of a preliminary curriculum outline, data on demographics in the Islamic community and a job description for a program director. Though the grant has not yet been secured, a framework now exists for the Islamic center and for future grant proposals.

All Girl Scout programs are based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law and Four Program Goals: developing self-potential, relating to others, developing values and contributing to society. To achieve these goals, they have established programs in foster homes, homeless shelters, school yards and Native American reservations. Further, the Girl Scouts of America have established a research institute, received government funding to address violence prevention and are addressing the digital divide with activities that encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math and technology.

Today, 90 years later, the organization offers girls of all races, ages, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds and abilities the chance to develop the real-life skills they'll need as adults. I am sure that my Senate colleagues join me in commending the Girl Scouts on their first 90 years and look forward to them celebrating many more.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, this week, celebrations throughout the Nation will mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of Girl Scouts. I would like to take a few moments to acknowledge this great organization and the profound impact it makes in the lives of girls and young women.

Ninety years ago, Juliette Gordon Low assembled a group of girls in Savannah, GA, for the first meeting of Girl Scouts. Her goal was to provide an environment where girls could develop physically, mentally and spiritually. Those goals are unchanged today, with nearly 4 million girls and adults currently holding membership in Girl Scouts. Even more impressive is that more than 50 million women in the United States today claim a Girl Scout experience in their past.

While focused on its goal to help individual girls thrive, Girl Scouts has also known that it can make an important difference in our Nation's cultural life. From its beginnings, Girl Scouts has maintained a commitment to inclusiveness. It has encouraged diversity in its ranks, in its leadership and in the broad variety of public service programs Girl Scouts pursue.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in acknowledging the anniversary of Girl Scouts. I think that if Juliette Gordon Low were to visit a Girl Scout Troop today, she would rightfully be very proud of what she would see.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I want to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on celebrating its 90th anniversary. Last night I attended the anniversary banquet with my wife, Peatsy, who has been involved with the Girl Scout leadership for many years.

It never ceases to amaze me how this organization, with a membership of almost 4 million, has maintained the same core values it held 90 years ago; yet it still has changed with the times to empower girls of all races, all backgrounds, and all income levels to meet their full potential. Some two-thirds of the women members of Congress are Girl Scout alumni, and there is no question that more and more of our future business leaders, doctors, lawyers, educators, and community leaders will come from the Girl Scout ranks. •

GLOBAL HIV/AIDS: THE HEALTH CRISIS OF OUR TIME

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I came to Washington to the U.S. Senate in my heart to serve my home state of Tennessee and this great nation, but after arriving my steps have also taken me far from the floor of the United States Senate—on medical mission trips to Sudan, Africa, and most recently, in January, to Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The purpose of my trip just a few weeks ago was to learn, for myself, more about the human impact that a simple virus is having on the destruction of a continent. Not a family. Not a community. Not a state. Not a country. But an entire continent.

The statistics behind this global plague are shocking:

Each year, a staggering three million people die of AIDS. Someone dies from the disease every ten seconds. About twice that many, 5.5 million, or two every ten seconds, become infected. That's 15,000 a day. And what's even more tragic is that 6,000 of those infected each day are young—between ages 15 and 24. Globally, as many as 40 million are infected. Africa is hit particularly hard. Of those infected, 70% are in Africa. In Botswana alone, one out of every three individuals is infected.

And the toll on families is incalculable. 13 million children have been orphaned by AIDS, mostly in Africa. Projections for the next ten years are sobering—the orphan population may well grow to 40 million—the number equivalent to all children living east of the Mississippi River here in the U.S. But Africa is not alone. India, with over 4 million cases, is on the edge of an explosive epidemic. China is estimated to have as many as 10 million infected persons. The Caribbean sadly boasts one of the highest rates of infection of any region in the world. Eastern Europe and Russia report the fastest growth of AIDS cases, 11 times over during a three year period. And even worse—90 percent of those infected do not know they have the disease. There is no cure. There is no vaccine. And it is increasing in numbers.

As ranking member of the African Affairs subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, I have a commitment to increase public awareness of the HIV pandemic in Africa, and most importantly, to develop a strategy to combat and eradicate the disease from the continent and the world. What I saw and learned in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania was extraordinary—coming face-to-face with the human tragedy of HIV/AIDS, and lives cut far too short.

Madam President, Africa has lost an entire generation. In Nairobi, Kenya, I visited the Kibera slum. With a population of over 750,000, one out of five of those who live in Kibera are HIV/AIDS positive. As I walked the crowded, dirty pathways sandwiched between hundreds of thousands of aluminum shanties, I was amazed that everyone was a child, or very old. The disease had wiped out the parents—the most productive segment of the population—teachers, military personnel, hospital workers, law enforcement officers.

In Arusha, Tanzania, I met Nema whose name means “Grace.” She sells bananas to survive and provide for her year and a half old son, Daniel. When Daniel cried from hunger, Nema kissed his hand because she had nothing to give him but her love.

Margaret, also in Arusha, whose symptoms first came on in 1990. When her husband died, despite her illness, she found the strength to fight his family to keep the family property. Thanks to her brothers, she has a house for her six children.

And I had the privilege of visiting with Tabu, a 28-year-old prostitute, who was leaving Arusha to return to her village to die. She stayed an extra day to meet with us, and I will never forget her cheerful demeanor and mischievous smile as we met in her small stick-framed mud hut, no more than 12 by 12. Her two sisters are also infected, another sister has already died. Tabu will leave behind an eleven year old daughter, Adija.

At home in Tennessee, or even here in Washington, D.C., Uganda and Tanzania feel very far away. But the plague of HIV/AIDS and the chaos, despair and civil disorder it perpetrates only leads to the demise of democracy in a country, in a continent, in the world. Without civil institutions, there is disorder. Last year in South Africa, one in every 200 teachers died of AIDS. In Kenya, 75 percent of deaths on the police force are from AIDS. HIV-related deaths among hospital workers in Zambia have increased 13 times in over a decade. In the wake of these losses, economies are devastated. Botswana's economy is projected to shrink by 30 percent in ten years. Kenya's economy will see a 15 percent decline. Family incomes in the Ivory Coast have declined by 50 percent while expenditures for health care have risen by 4000 percent.

The orphans of Africa are left without parents, without teachers, without role models and leaders. They are susceptible to recruitment by criminal organizations, revolutionary militias, and terrorists. Terrorism could become a way of life—not only for maniacal cults but for a generation. September 11 taught us how small our world really is. And how great the responsibility before us.

And that is why I'm devoting much of my time in the U.S. Senate to the issue of global HIV/AIDS, and in particular, to the impact of the disease in Africa. Just as our great nation is the leader in the war on terrorism, we must also continue to lead in the global battle against AIDS as we work to build a better, safer world. Then where do we go from here?

It seems to me there are three key ingredients: leadership, prevention and treatment, and funding.

I would like to elaborate a moment on each. The good news is we know a lot about how to reverse the epidemic. And as a first step, it takes strong leadership at all levels, but as with most things in life, that leadership must start at the top. President Museveni in Uganda, with whom I spent some time on my trip, has not been bashful about speaking very publicly to the citizens of his country about HIV/AIDS. Bakili Muluzi, President of Malawi, was in my office here in Washington just a few weeks ago. He told me that he opens every speech to his countrymen with an admonition about HIV/AIDS. These two presidents underscore the need to bring the disease out into the light, helping to eliminate the stigma often associated