

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED WAY OF CHITTENDEN COUNTY

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the United Way of Chittenden County on the occasion of their 60th Anniversary. Many Vermonters have worked tirelessly for this organization throughout the years and I take great pride in what they have accomplished.

Since Henry Way founded the organization under the name of the Burlington Community Chest in 1942, the United Way has brought vital services to generations of Vermonters and earned its reputation as a cornerstone of Chittenden County's collaborative community development.

Vermonters must never take for granted the key role the United Way plays in the well-being of our local communities. Sustainable, grassroots solutions to complex problems do not come easily. In partnership with citizens, businesses, services, State and Federal Government, the United Way helps to fund such worthy organizations as the Girl Scouts, YMCA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and many more.

Communities throughout the United States are served well by their local United Way chapters. If founders Henry Way, C.P. Hasbrook, and I. Munn Boardman were alive today they would be proud of the organizational strength the United Way has built through the years. I commend the board, staff, contributors, and volunteers for their generous efforts in securing crucial resources for their communities. The legacy of these groundbreaking Vermonters is honored by sixty years of tenacious work. This proud history continues today under the apt leadership of Gretchen Morse. I am sure the United Way of Chittenden County will continue to be an example for other charitable organizations throughout the country.

The United Way is sure to meet their community's challenges in the next 60 years with the vision, leadership and perseverance demonstrated today.

I extend my hearty congratulations.●

DRAWING THE LINE ON GUN VIOLENCE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to call to the attention of my Senate colleagues, Mr. Hasani Tyus, a junior at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, MI. He has been drawing for years and has won several Motor City Comic Book Convention art awards. Hasani, along with his father, have been honored in a book of outstanding African-Americans for their artwork. Hasani is also a member of several academic societies, is a straight A student and recently earned his black belt in karate. More importantly, Hasani has done what so many young people across the Nation have done in the

years following the Columbine tragedy. He has put his talents to use. He did so by urging us to "Draw the Line on Gun Violence."

Hasani is 1 of 13 national poster contest winners selected from more than 1,000 entries by the Alliance for Justice's Co/Motion Program, a national program that helps community organizations teach youth leaders to become advocates for a cause in their community. Co/motion partners with youth organizations, national service and service learning programs, schools and other community-based organizations to provide training to young adults in advocacy and organizing skills. Further, it empowers young people to take action to effect social change. Co/motion's Drawing the line on Gun Violence Poster Contest, the first of its kind, provided young people the opportunity to express their feelings about the issue of gun violence in a rewarding and artistic way. Hasani's award-winning poster is currently posted on my website (<http://levin.senate.gov>).

I had the pleasure of meeting Hasani earlier this week and I commended him on his hard work and honest depiction of the results of gun violence. I am sure that I speak for many of my Senate colleagues in congratulating Hasani Tyus on a job well done.●

ESSAY BY LELAND MILLER

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, recently I was asked by a constituent of mine, Mr. Marshall Miller, if I would seek to have an essay on Central Asia that was written by his son, Leland, reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Leland Miller is a second year law student at the University of Virginia. I ask that Mr. Miller's essay be printed in the RECORD.

The essay follows:

KEEPING CENTRAL ASIA'S KLEPTOCRATS AT ARM'S LENGTH (By Leland R. Miller)

As American planes take off from Uzbek airstrips to provide support for the war against the Taliban, another conflict is occurring nearby, underneath the radar of the American media. Kazakhstan, the largest territory in Central Asia, is undergoing a palace coup. Yet few in Washington seem to know or care.

As the only major area on earth that is still "up for grabs," Central Asia may very well become a key geopolitical battleground of the 21st century. This is nothing new. In the early 20th century, British strategist Sir Halford J. Mackinder proclaimed that whoever controls Central Asia has the key to world domination. Yet a century later, it is almost an afterthought in American strategic thinking.

This is a major mistake, the result of two phenomena. First, the war in Afghanistan has convinced U.S. policy makers that the need for support—both rhetorical and substantive—from Central Asian regimes trumps all other considerations.

Second, the promise of the Caspian oil basin and other large business opportunities in the lucrative Central Asian energy markets have seduced Washington into turning a blind eye towards whom we are dealing with.

As a result of these dual factors, America is walking into a dangerous trap. As we open

our arms to these unstable and authoritarian Central Asian regimes, they are gradually gaining the status not just of America's temporary allies but as our friends. This is a disastrous betrayal of U.S. interests. Granted, the promise of quick rewards is enticing. However, like all Faustian bargains, the sacrifice could be considerable.

Perhaps no country sings this siren song more effectively than Kazakhstan. Although it is one of the world's poorest countries, its president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, is ranked as the eighth richest man in the world. The reason? He and his two venal sons-in-law have run Kazakhstan as a family business. The family has sustained itself through gross corruption and the ruthless exploitation of would-be foreign investors.

The Kazakh leaders entice investments or loans, take over the investments under some pretext, then "sell the same horse" again to someone else. With abundant oil, uranium, and other resources, the country always seems able to find another group of gullible suitors. If that fails, pseudo-investments can be induced to cover up money laundering from the Russian mafia.

The recent crisis in Kazakhstan only reinforces this image. It began when Rakhat Aliyev, son-in-law to President Nursultan Nazabayev, was forced to resign his position as deputy chairman of the National Security Committee after reportedly making an Absalom-like run at his father-in-law's authority. He re-emerged just days later as the new head of the presidential guard, seemingly unscathed, but he had driven the first big split in the ruling family. His detractors used this opening to form a new party, Democratic Choice.

While some insiders have suggested that this new group may be nothing less than a second tier of crooks fighting Aliyev for a bigger piece of the pie, the government reacted swiftly. Prime Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev, a Nazarbayev crony, angrily demanded (and received) the resignations of four top cabinet members, all of whom were founding members of the new party. Tokayev's justification?: "All those disagreeing with our policy and wishing to participate in political movements should resign."

Perhaps no one outside of the palace in Astana knows what's really going on. But in the world of Kazakh politics, it matters little whether this battle was an intrafamily fight for power or simply a battle amongst politicians unhappy with the current division of spoils. Either way, this is clearly not a regime that America should be too identified with.

True, Kazakhstan does draw some favorable comparisons, but only when contrasted with its neighbors. The fact is, Central Asian governments are among the most corrupt and repressive regimes in the world. Most inherited the apparatuses of their communist predecessors and many have been just as ruthless in wielding it. Most, like Nazarbayev's and Turkmenbashi's of Turkmenistan, are even extensions of the same communist party structure that they allegedly replaced.

Autocratic and corrupt governance is the rule, not the exception, in Central Asia. The lack of available political channels is so endemic in these countries that frustrated citizens are offered but two choices: attempt to mobilize politically, despite the obvious barriers, or else turn to extra-political means of empowerment.

It is this second possibility that so desperately deserves U.S. attention. Across Central Asia, ethnic and religious differences among the populations constitute a

sizable obstacle to stability and democratic governance. Unlike the Balkans, however, it is not an insurmountable one.

Despite the pervasive following of Islam in the region, religious extremism does not have the same roots in Central Asia that it does in other parts of the world. Radical groups, such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (whose leader, Jumaboi Khojiev Namangani, was reportedly killed fighting in Afghanistan—some sources say he has merely gone into hiding) are fortunately still the exception.

However, this could certainly change if repressive regimes continue to kindle the flames of religious extremism by stifling virtually all other opportunities for political voice. The horrors of Algeria should not be replicated in Uzbekistan or Tajikistan.

Situated in the middle of Russia, China, and India, and with virtually untapped energy potential, Central Asia would be an area of importance to the United States even under the best of circumstances. However, the War on Terror has now considerably upped the ante. Support for the cause of Muslim fundamentalism in Central Asia not only threatens the region's stability, but is sure to mean more fuel for a global jihad. As the events of 9/11 have made clear, America has as much reason to fear that development as any of the regimes themselves.

The next generation of America's leaders must not be made apologists for today's policies aimed at the short-term and short-sighted advancement of U.S. interests. This means avoiding marriages of convenience with repressive Central Asian regimes that will inevitably prove harmful to the nation's future.

The New Great Game in Central Asia is very much a battle of good against evil. Democracy, not Islamic extremism, must fill the political void. While the U.S. has no role in fomenting or aiding these "coups of the apparatchiks," Americans are still beholden to one obligation: We need to at least make sure we are not rooting for the wrong side.●

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I have had the privilege of hosting some of the future leaders of America in my office as part of Ms. Magazine's Take Our Daughters to Work Day. As part of the day's activities I asked them to write a speech on what they would do if elected to serve as a United States Senator. I am proud to submit for the record some of their responses.

If I were a United States Senator by Annie Ballard, 5th Grade, Future US Senator 2021. As a Senator of the United States I will find equality for all peoples of the Nation. For every man, woman and child of all races and types. Every man and woman should have equal pay and treatment. In some places of the country, women and people of color are not payed or treated equally to whites and men. Hispanics might be payed \$2.29 for 13 hours of work each day. Some women are qualified for jobs and have to give them up because of a less qualified man. Teams of sports will choose males over females in football, baseball and other sports. In this bill, I plan to equalize all jobs, sports and pay for all people of the United States of America.

What I would do if I were Senator, by Ashley Bageant. I would increase security at big buildings and airports so our environment can be more safe. I would do that by hiring more police officers. I would try to treat everybody the same. I would do what I would think would be right for our country. I would pay my people more money so they would have enough money to build homeless shelters to get homeless people off the street.

What I would do if I were Senator? By Kathleen Warner, 9th Grade, Future US Senator 2018. As a high school student and a Catholic, I am pro-life and feel that my opinion should be strongly considered. My reasoning on the abortion issue is that a child is a life from the point of conception and therefore should be the state just like any other citizen. Also, if a child is conceived unexpectedly the mother can put the child up for adoption where he or she has the same opportunity as other children to live a strong, successful life. Finally, let me say, I am proud to live in a country where I can express my opinion like this.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3763. An act to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures made pursuant to the securities laws, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4167. An act to extend for 8 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

MEASURERS REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3763. An act to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures made pursuant to the securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-6572. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Deputy Director for State and Local Affairs, received on April 17, 2002; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6573. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conferring Designated Port Status on Anchorage, Alaska" (RIN1018-AH75) received on April 22, 2002; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6574. A communication from the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting jointly, the Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Request Amendment; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-6575. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, a report relative to the Merit Systems Protection Board Reauthorization Act of 2002; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6576. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-229. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan to support Federal assistance, through the Transportation Efficiency Act, for the Village of Holly/Rose Township Michigan Highway-Rail Life Safety Access Project; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

Whereas, Blockage of the Cogshall Road crossing creates a life-threatening danger to residents in Holly Shores, a mobile home subdivision, when emergency vehicles cannot gain access; and

Whereas, Proximity of wetland limits the areas that can be used to address the problem; and