

elected president, I will freeze the defense budget at 3 percent real growth and do away with the MX (missile) and the B-1."

Exempted from his proposed spending freeze? Food stamps and assistance to the disabled.

We in the press corps are forever lamenting the lack of candor in our political debates and the lack of courage in our presidential candidates, who are unwilling to ask us to sacrifice even the slightest personal comfort for the national well-being.

But when we do encounter the brand of straightforwardness that this 1984 Democratic candidate practiced, we do not applaud or praise it. Doubts are predictably recorded about "the discipline," the "presidential temperament," even the rashness of the fellow.

That's mostly the press treatment Sen. Ernest "Fritz" Hollings, D-S.C., received when he ran for president and publicly said all of the above and again, earlier this month, when he announced that he would retire after 38 years in the Senate.

True, Hollings gave us a lot to work with. While President Bush was furiously trying to publicly distance himself from the disgraced chief of Enron, Hollings quipped, "I did not have political relations with that man, Ken Lay."

That was a take-off on a discredited disclaimer by President Clinton—of whose then-improving poll ratings, Hollings had quipped, "If they reach 60 percent, then he can start dating again."

When his own presidential campaign failed, Hollings reported that "Thomas Wolfe was wrong—'You can go home again.' I know. That's what the people of New Hampshire told me to do."

But let it be recorded that in 1963, when the states of Alabama and Mississippi, governed respectively by George Wallace and Ross Barnett, were battlefields of bloodshed and bayonets in the struggle for civil rights, a young South Carolina governor delivered a much different message to his state and its Legislature: "(T)his General Assembly must make clear South Carolina's choice, a government of laws rather than a government of men. . . . We of today must realize the lesson of 100 years ago, and move on for the good of South Carolina and our United States. This should be done with dignity. It must be done with law and order."

Fritz Hollings was no plaster saint. His tongue was sometimes too sharp. His temper was sometimes too short. But his departure will leave a lonesome place against the sky. He was a leader of uncommon courage and uncommon candor.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I have risen on numerous occasions in the past 6 months to pay tribute to the men and women who are fighting in Iraq and elsewhere in the war on international terror. Today I rise once again to pay tribute and to honor a young man who was recently killed in action in Iraq—Master Sergeant Kevin Morehead, a native of Little Rock, AR, and a soldier in the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Group. MSG Morehead was killed September 12 in the early morning raid in Ar Ramadi, an Iraqi city about 70 miles west of Baghdad.

Kevin Morehead graduated from Central High School in Little Rock in 1987. After attending the University of Arkansas, Kevin opted for a military career, enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1989.

In 1994, he joined the elite Special Forces. His service over his 14-year career in the Army was exemplary, earning him a number of commendations, including the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. In the last 2 years, he served with distinction in the Middle Eastern theater, first in Afghanistan, where he served as an adviser to the Northern Alliance in the fight against the Taliban extremists. In Afghanistan from October 2001 to February 2002, MSG Morehead called in airstrikes on Taliban positions, and his actions reportedly saved the lives of hundreds of men. MSG Morehead was sent to Iraq in January of this year, where he served with further distinction. Although his unit had already returned from service in Iraq, MSG Morehead had stayed behind to help with orientation for his unit's replacements.

Kevin was buried on September 21 in Bald Knob, AR, in a grave on a hilltop next to that of his grandfather. Our condolences and our prayers go out to Kevin's wife Theresa; to his stepdaughters, Kirsten Inman and Kaylyn Council, to his sister, Kristen Wright; to his grandmother, Zelda Guthrie; and to his parents, James and Jeanette Morehead, of Benton, AR.

One attendee at his funeral was quoted in our State's newspaper, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, as saying that Master Sergeant Kevin Morehead "did not die in vain. Hopefully, by his actions the world will be a better place for all mankind." The mission continues in Iraq, and we remain confident that, as coalition troops move to secure and stabilize the country, Iraq will emerge as a democracy in the Middle East, and that Kevin Morehead's courage and sacrifice will prove to have been given in a worthy cause.

RAPE KITS AND DNA EVIDENCE BACKLOG ELIMINATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act of 2003. This bill contains several important provisions. I am especially pleased with title I of the bill—the Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act, which mirrors the bill of the same name that I introduced earlier this year. The purpose of this title and our original bill is to extend more Federal funding to States and localities to fight crime with DNA technology, expand our national database of DNA profiles from criminals, and train sexual assault examiners.

While the overall violent crime rate has decreased in recent years, the occurrence of rape has only increased. Tragically, somewhere in America, a woman is sexually assaulted every 2 minutes. In other words, by the time I conclude my remarks, at least five women will have been assaulted. It has been estimated, as well, that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men in the United States have been the victim of a com-

pleted or attempted rape. These statistics are truly staggering, especially considering that rape is a chronically underreported crime. Experts contend that rape could be much more prevalent than even these statistics reflect.

The majority of sexual assault victims who report their crimes do so in a hospital emergency room, where they frequently wait hours for treatment—in many cases, to see doctors or nurses who have not received specialized training in dealing with assault victims and who lack the proper forensic tools for evidence collection. As you can imagine, the collection of forensic evidence can be a very invasive process for a rape victim. But in many cases, this is where the investigation stops. In cities across the country, hundreds of thousands of rape kits are sitting untested in police department evidence rooms. While these kits contain vital DNA evidence that could lead to the arrest of rapists, many rape kits have gone untested for more than a decade due to a lack of funding.

In my own home State of Ohio, officials estimated in May 2002 that at least 3,000 kits with rape evidence—and maybe even more—remained unanalyzed, despite recent strides in science that allow DNA evidence from rapes and other violent crimes to be compared against DNA profiles in the Combined DNA Index System, CODIS, our national DNA database. Laboratory researchers at the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation report that they have a high success rate in matching unknown DNA collected from crime scenes to either the DNA of offenders on file or to other crime scenes. That would mean that if all 3,000 unexamined Ohio rape kits contained extractable DNA, several kits very likely could yield evidence leading to the identity of rapists.

We now have both the technology to analyze DNA evidence and a growing database of DNA profiles with which to compare this evidence. This system works, and it catches criminals. Let me share an example of how evidence from rape kits has led to the arrest of a rapist in Ohio. Last year, a Hamilton, Ohio man was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison for an April 1998 attack on a woman in a grocery store parking lot. Although a DNA sample from this rape was sent to the State crime lab 3 days after the attack, it took until November 2001—nearly 3½ years later—for scientists to analyze the sample and add it to the State's DNA database. Once this sample was added, a positive match was made and this rapist was prosecuted and put behind bars. Unfortunately, this victim had to wait 3 years for justice, while her rapist remained on the street. While this is an excellent example of how DNA has been used successfully to catch rapists, it also shows the critical need to promptly analyze the kits we have on hand. The longer this evidence sits around unanalyzed, the longer sex offenders will remain free—and free to potentially harm more victims.

The Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act would help to address the issues I have just outlined, particularly those involving the collection and processing of DNA evidence. We owe it to rape victims, as well as to our society as a whole, to do all we can to apprehend and prosecute sex offenders. To this end, title I would do several important things. Specifically, and perhaps most importantly, this bill would extend the authorization for the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000. This law, of which I was one of the chief Senate sponsors, aims to reduce the backlog of unanalyzed DNA samples in forensic laboratories across the United States. Unfortunately, the authorization for the grant programs established under the act will expire soon, but many States still have a long way to go to clear their DNA evidence backlogs. The Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act would extend that authorization, while also increasing the funds authorized for grants under the Act. This would help States to further reduce their DNA evidence backlogs, processing crucial evidence that could bring criminals to justice.

Furthermore, title I would expand CODIS, our national DNA database. The expansion of this database is important, since the larger the database, the more likely it is that State crime laboratories will be able to match DNA evidence to offenders. Under the Rape Kits and DNA Evidence Backlog Elimination Act, the FBI could accept for inclusion in CODIS any DNA sample submitted by the States for inclusion in the database, including DNA samples from all felons convicted of Federal crimes. Given the high rate of recidivism among sexual offenders, this last addition may prove very useful to law enforcement as they utilize CODIS. The U.S. Department of Justice has expressed support for expanding the DNA database in this manner.

In addition to providing funds to help States and localities process evidence, we also must improve the way that DNA evidence is collected and used. To this end, title II of the Advancing Justice through DNA Technology Act also contains many components of the bill I introduced earlier this year involving important training programs. This title would provide Federal resources to support a new training program for Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners, known as SAFEs. This program is modeled on a separate bill that Senator SCHUMER and I introduced during the 107th Congress. As I discussed before, many rape victims first report their crimes in a hospital emergency room, where they are treated by inexperienced staff, many of whom have no training in the proper use of a rape evidence kit. SAFEs, by contrast, are well-trained in the collection of forensic evidence and are able to give competent and sensitive treatment to rape victims at a time when they are most vulnerable—immediately after their

attack. Furthermore, the intervention of SAFEs in a sex crime case bolsters the odds of prosecution and conviction of offenders, as their expertise generally renders them better witnesses than most emergency room personnel during trials. While these programs have proven to be effective, only a few hundred SAFE programs currently exist in the United States, treating a minute number of sexual assault victims. These nurse examiners provide an important service, both to the victim and to justice system, and I strongly advocate funding more training programs for them.

Finally, title II would make two changes in the criminal code to better protect victims of crimes in which DNA evidence is recovered. It would extend or "toll" the statute of limitations under Federal law for prosecuting many crimes in which DNA evidence is recovered, but the identity of the perpetrator is unknown. Also, this title would amend the Violence Against Women Act to include legal assistance for victims of dating violence.

In closing, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support the Advancing Justice through DNA Technology Act of 2003. This bill is a good one, and one deserving of the Senate's support. It can do a great deal to help rape victims, as well as to prosecute sexual offenders.

FREEDOM'S ANSWER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, just recently the Senate approved the Labor, HHS Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004. During the same time period we paused to remember the tragic events of September 11. So it is a good moment to bring to the attention of my Senate colleagues and of the Department of Education the nonpartisan, nonprofit Freedom's Answer project which is a direct result of the 9/11 experience—and which seeks to engage high school students across America in the elections process even before they are old enough to vote.

At a time when Senator KENNEDY and I, along with many other Members of the Senate, are convinced that restoring civics education to schools should get a high priority, Freedom's Answer is one effort that is doing just that. It should have the highest priority for funding by the Department of Education within the discretionary funds of the Fund for Innovation in Education, the Character Education Program, the Civics Education program, or the Fund for Improvement in Post-Secondary Education.

Freedom's Answer is a totally nonpartisan program, begun by long-time political professionals Mike McCurry and Doug Bailey. Its National Advisory Council is co-chaired by the Republican Leader in the Senate, BILL FRIST, and the Democratic Leader in the House, NANCY PELOSI. The chairs of the Republican and Democratic National Committees both sit on its National Advisory Council.

Started after the 9/11 tragedy, Freedom's Answer urged high school students in over 2,500 high schools throughout the country to seek 10 voting pledges each in the 2002 election, not for any particular party or candidate, but rather to honor the servicemen and women serving our country and risking their lives daily for our freedom.

These students didn't just help set a mid-term voter turnout record—nationally and in 27 different states—they learned first hand the power of political involvement. Even before they could vote, they learned the power not just of each and every vote, but also of collective involvement in the political process. It may well have been as good a civics lesson as they could ever receive—one certain to make them voters in the years ahead.

Our young people owe it to us to be part of America's democracy. And we owe it to our young people, regardless of party, philosophy, religion, income, race or State to enable them both to know how the system works and how to be part of it. Freedom's Answer is a powerful way we can meet that commitment, and I join my colleagues in encouraging the Department of Education to consider using discretionary funds in the 2004 budget we will pass to help make this wonderful civics lesson come alive in every high school in the land.

Mr. KENNEDY. I commend the leadership of my colleague from Tennessee. He's a strong advocate for better education in both history and civics. We need to do much more to broaden students' understanding of American history and encourage them to participate in the democratic process.

Freedom's Answer is an excellent model. It is a nonpartisan program founded by Mike McCurry and Doug Bailey to involve high school students in elections. The mission of Freedom's Answer is "to turn today's students into tomorrow's voters."

The program was launched after the tragic events of 9/11. It was organized in over 2,500 high schools across the Nation, asking each student to line up 10 pledges from others to vote in the 2002 election—not for a particular candidate or party, but in tribute to the servicemen and women serving abroad whose commitment to our country is safeguarding our national security.

Their participation was a worthwhile factor in enhancing voter turnout in the 2002 elections. These young students learned the power of each individual vote, as well as the importance of greater involvement in the political process. It was an extraordinary civics lesson for them and for their families and neighbors, too, and it will encourage them to vote as soon as they become eligible to do so.

I'm confident that this program will generate even greater election participation in coming years. Their participation will enrich our country and help to inspire the next generation of leaders.