

human life—from the leper on the streets of Calcutta, to the ailing AIDS victim in New York, to the unborn child inside a mother's womb. Her passion for protecting all human life was clear when she spoke to Members of Congress at the National Prayer Breakfast in February 1994. She said,

I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?

She continuously reminded people around the world of the plight of those weakest in the world; those least able to protect themselves. In 1979, she received the Nobel Peace Prize and accepted the award "in the name of the hungry, the naked, the homeless, of the crippled, of the blind, of the lepers, of all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared-for throughout society, people that have become a burden to society and are shunned by everyone."

Mother Teresa touched the lives of those most in need in this world and she inspired others to service in every corner of the globe. Certainly the work she performed in her life was miraculous, and I have no doubt that those in need will continue to find solace and comfort in Mother Teresa and the continuing work that her missions still perform.

#### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY FOR IRAQIS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to discuss something that I consider a major cornerstone to any free society—religious freedom.

I recently offered an amendment during the markup that would condition the money going to the Coalition Provisional Authority, CPA, by ensuring the preservation of "full rights to religious freedom for all individuals, including a prohibition on laws which would criminalize blasphemy and apostasy." The first part of that phrase, "full rights to religious freedom for all individuals," is extremely important given the recent historical record on constitutions that established Islam as the official religion of the state. Pakistan is an Islamic Republic in which the constitution extends some rights to groups to engage in their religious practices.

However, the constitution does not allow for the freedom of conscience of individual believers, either within different sects of Islam or for those wishing to convert. Therefore, the biggest danger may be to those who do not subscribe to the prevailing interpretation of Islam. With the Afghan constitution just now coming to light, the international community and the Afghan people are slowly becoming aware that their constitution will not preserve their individual right to believe what they wish.

On October 1, 2003, the New York Times published an op-ed piece written

by members of the United States Commission on Religious Freedom which precisely outlined the significant importance of only supporting a constitution that, and I quote, "clearly and unequivocally enshrines human rights and religious freedom." We must not settle for anything less and we must not encourage the Afghan people to settle for any less. As stated in the article, "After all, it is not just Afghanistan's future that is at stake. Iraqis are watching to see what minimum standards of individual rights will be acceptable to the United States."

In addition, the last part of the phrase which would prohibit criminalization of blasphemy and apostasy is equally as important. As much as the constitution must be absolutely secular, those who would freely renounce their faith, apostasy, or those who would speak out profanely against religion, blasphemy, must have their rights preserved. The freedom of religion is more than just the ability to practice one's faith, but is central to other rights and freedoms, including a free press, public assembly, free speech or the right to petition the government. All of these freedoms will be circumscribed if religious freedom is not part of an Iraqi constitution and a reconstituted Iraq.

My amendment, which also appears in the House language, would also require the President to submit a report to the Congress every 90 days detailing efforts to make religious freedom a major tenet of the Iraqi constitution. If Secretary Powell's recent statement is correct, then there should be a constitution in six months. That would, at most, require two reports on the status of the constitution if completed within 6 months.

In my view, religious freedom is the bedrock on which freedom, hope and progress rest and should be a top priority as we discuss the many foreign policy issues at hand.

I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times op-ed article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Oct. 1, 2003]

#### SILENCED AGAIN IN KABUL

(By Preeta D. Bansal and Felice D. Gaer)

WASHINGTON.—American efforts to build a democratic, tolerant Afghanistan are facing a serious challenge: the draft of the Afghan constitution, which may be made public as early as this week, does not yet provide for crucial human rights protections, including freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The United States and the international community should insist that the draft presented by the constitutional commission explicitly protect these core human rights for all Afghans.

Despite reports to the contrary, the current draft versions of the constitution enshrine particular schools of Islamic law, or Shariah, that criminalize dissent and criticism of Islam through blasphemy laws.

If this draft is ratified in December by the *loya jirga*, or grand council, the freedoms of Afghan citizens would continue to be in the

hands of judges educated in Islamic law, rather than in civil law. Official charges of blasphemy, apostasy or other religious crimes could still be used to suppress debate, just as they were under the Taliban.

Making changes in the draft is all the more important because, as Afghanistan's Human Rights Commission and the United Nations' Assistance Mission in Afghanistan have reported, Afghan reformers seeking to express their views on their new constitution have been hindered by threats, harassment and even imprisonment. In one case, an editor and a reporter have been charged with blasphemy for publishing an article questioning the role of Islam in the state.

On our recent trip to Kabul as members of the bipartisan United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, we met many Muslims who recognize the compatibility of Islam with human rights. Yet these Muslims are being intimidated into silence by vocal and well-armed extremists.

Freedom-loving Afghans won't be able to rely on conscientious judges to protect religious freedom without an explicit reference to it in the constitution. Afghanistan's chief justice, Fazl Hadi Shinwari, for example, has shown little regard for those who disagree with his hard-line interpretation of Islam. He told us that he accepted the international standards protected by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights—with three exceptions: freedom of expression, freedom of religion and equality of the sexes. "This is the only law," the chief justice told us, pointing to the Koran on his desk.

Even in a self-proclaimed Islamic republic, however, all citizens, Muslims as well as non-Muslims, must be free to debate the role of religion and to question prevailing orthodoxies without fear of being subjected to trials, prison or death. At a minimum, Afghan leaders should amend the draft constitution to specifically ensure the human rights guarantees that Afghanistan has already accepted and ratified in six international treaties. Afterward, the United States must ensure the safety of reformers who want to speak out at the *loya jirga* to ensure that the constitution of Afghanistan makes possible a free and just society based on the rule of law.

While respecting that Afghans should determine their own future, United States officials must not let a "hands off" policy lead to political conditions that will embolden repression and enable a few to hijack the future from the many Afghans who hope to embrace freedom.

After all, it is not just Afghanistan's future that is at stake. Iraqis are watching to see what minimum standards of individual rights will be acceptable to the United States. Unfortunately, the message that the Afghan draft constitution is giving Iraq is the wrong one. We should instead send our own message to President Hamid Karzai, to Afghan officials and to the Afghan people: Americans will only support a state with a constitution that clearly and unequivocally enshrines human rights and religious freedom.

#### COST ESTIMATE FOR S. 300

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate for S. 300, the Jackie Robinson Congressional Gold Medal bill, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE  
*S. 300—A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the nation, and to express the sense of Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson*

S. 300 would authorize the President to present a gold medal to the family of Jackie Robinson in recognition of his contributions to the nation as an athlete, business leader, and citizen. The legislation would authorize the U.S. Mint to spend up to \$30,000 to produce the gold medal. To help recover the costs of the medal, S. 300 would authorize the Mint to strike and sell bronze duplicates of the medal at a price that covers production costs for both the medal and the duplicates.

Based on the costs of recent medals produced by the Mint, CBO estimates that the bill would not significantly increase direct spending from the U.S. Mint Public Enterprise Fund. We estimate that the gold medal would cost about \$25,000 to produce in fiscal year 2004, including around \$5,000 for the cost of the gold and about \$20,000 for the costs to design, engrave, and manufacture the medal. CBO expects that the Mint would recoup little of its costs by selling bronze duplicates to the public.

S. 300 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no effect on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford, who can be reached at 226-2860. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

#### NATIONAL CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleagues for designating the week of October 19–25, 2003 as National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. S. Res. 243, the resolution making next week National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, was cosponsored by 44 of my colleagues and passed the Senate last night by unanimous consent.

The need to combat the severe threat of lead poisoning to our children's health has never been greater. It is estimated that 25 million homes nationwide have lead hazards. Many of those homes were built before 1950, when paint contained as much as 50 percent lead. Peeling chips and dust from deteriorating lead-based paint is one of the most common sources of childhood lead poisoning. According to the latest national health estimates, nearly one-half of a million children under the age of 6 suffer from lead poisoning, with these children 8 times more likely to come from low-income working families than wealthy families.

Unfortunately, except for severely poisoned children, there is no medical treatment for this disease. Even then, treatment may only reduce the level of lead present in the body, not reverse the harm already caused. Research shows that children with elevated blood lead levels are seven times more likely to drop out of high school and 6 times more likely to have reading dis-

abilities. And it costs an average of \$10,000 more a year to educate a lead poisoned child.

We need to find the will and the resources to eradicate childhood lead poisoning in this country. Designating the last full week in October as National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week will help shine a light on this terrible problem, energize the Federal Government into playing a more effective role, and improve local, State and Federal cooperation in the process. With concerted effort, we can eliminate the tragedy of childhood lead poisoning so that no family in our country has to live in unsafe housing. I am committed to addressing this crisis, and believe this resolution can encourage communities to focus on solving the problem.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. ADEWALE TROUTMAN

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Adewale Troutman. Dr. Troutman was recently appointed to the position of Louisville Metro Health Director. Dr. Troutman, who formerly served as head of the health department in Fulton, GA, will also serve Kentucky as a faculty member of the University of Louisville's School of Public Health.

Dr. Troutman hails from New York City's South Bronx and has considerable health care experience in both the United States and Nigeria. In addition to serving as head of the health department in Fulton, GA, he has also served as a senior scientist at Morehouse University College of Medicine with former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher.

Dr. Troutman brings vision and leadership to a position that will influence the well-being and livelihoods of many Kentuckians. Some of the issues Dr. Troutman endeavors to undertake include access to health care for the uninsured and the disparity in health services based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

I am pleased to honor Dr. Troutman as a new addition to Kentucky's health care leadership. We are fortunate to have his direction and look forward to the considerable progress his tenure and administration promises to produce. I thank the Senate for allowing me to pay tribute to our newest Kentuckian.●

##### MARYLAND WATERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to the Maryland Watermen's Association which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. I have had the opportunity to work closely with the MWA and its members over the years on a number of important issues—from improving our com-

mercial harbors and historic seaports to restoring oyster reefs in Chesapeake Bay—and I have great respect for the men and women who make their living working Maryland's waters.

For many people, Maryland's watermen conjure up romantic images of solitary oystermen sailing the Chesapeake Bay in skipjacks and harvesting the Bay's bounty. Their independent lifestyle in the outdoors represents a significant part of the culture of the Chesapeake Bay. But a Maryland waterman's life is not easy. It is arduous work harvesting crabs, clams, oysters and charter fishing. Watermen are dependent upon good weather and when storms prevent harvesting, there is no paycheck. Watermen also depend upon pollution-free water and disease-free finfish and shellfish. The number of licensed, active watermen has decreased by over 2,000 in 30 years. These stark realities make Maryland's watermen strong and persistent advocates for the restoration of Chesapeake Bay.

Representing the independent and hardworking watermen is no easy task particularly in these times when their way of life is buffeted by so many forces. However, since it was first established in 1973, the Maryland Watermen's Association has done a great job of representing the interests of commercial watermen to the Maryland General Assembly and our congressional delegation. Under the leadership of Larry Simms, its president since 1973, and Betty Duty, its administrator, the association has been a forceful and effective advocate for Maryland's commercial finfish and shellfish industries.

I extend an invitation for all to attend Chesapeake Appreciation Days, to be held at Sandy Point State Park, Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2. This celebration of the Chesapeake Bay and the watermen who depend upon it is sponsored by the Maryland Watermen's Association. Chesapeake Appreciation Days is an excellent opportunity for everyone to see exhibits and events which will teach about the Bay's importance to all of us. It is a terrific way to gain an appreciation of the hard working members of the Maryland Watermen's Association over the last 30 years.●

#### 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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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