

I have so many fond memories of him. His enthusiasm for the work he did here was contagious. His sense of humor was wonderful. Jim Exon loved Nebraska football. He cared about a lot of issues, but other than his family, Nebraska football came first. He is going to be buried in Lincoln, NE, on this Wednesday. He died, I believe it was Friday night. BEN NELSON called me Saturday morning. Jim Exon was certainly a mentor of BEN NELSON. We will all miss him very much.

I hope those who have some knowledge of Senator Exon will recognize we hope to take an airplane trip to Nebraska Wednesday afternoon to attend his funeral. He was a wonderful man. I miss him so much.

ANTILYNCHING LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this past Friday, I was in Cincinnati. I had some business to conduct there, but my plane got in early, and I had some time on my hands. My staff said: Would you like to go to a new museum that opened in August of 2004? I said: Sure, I will be happy to. It is a museum that is dedicated to forcing us to remember what went on in the dark days of the history of this country dealing with slavery.

The museum is done so well. You walk in, and the first thing you see is this large facility—big, tall—and it is a facility that was used in the late 1700s, 1800s for holding slaves. The upper story—using that term loosely—was for the men and the bottom for the women. They still have the shackles there, the chains that were used to hold these people. They have the writing on the walls used to describe what these human beings were worth, how much money, and for what they could be used.

So it is very appropriate that I returned to Washington today since we are going to debate some legislation that is very pertinent.

In this body's two centuries of history, we have done many great things. We sent men to the Moon, created schools for our kids, fed the hungry, and lent a helping hand to struggling families. But today I rise to speak about one of this institution's great failures—its shameful refusal to enact antilynching legislation in the first half of the 20th century.

Today, one of the saddest chapters in our Chamber's history will come to a close when we apologize for the Senate's inaction. I join my colleagues in apologizing to the deceased victims of lynchings and their surviving loved ones. I pray this Chamber will never fail to see this injustice that was done. We must realize and understand what it was. It was an injustice.

While the exact number is impossible to determine, records indicate that since 1882—the best records we have—4,749 individuals have died from lynching, men and women, mostly men, and most of them by far African Ameri-

cans. These Americans were killed, tortured, mutilated, and maimed with near impunity. Most were denied due process under the law, and their killers rarely—very rarely—faced consequences for their actions, as indicated by the prayer offered today by our Chaplain which indicated little less than 1 percent who saw some retribution in the courts. The Senate's inaction helped create a culture of acceptance toward these heinous crimes against humanity.

Photos from this book—"Without Sanctuary" is the name of the book—a book of lynchings that occurred in America, and it is depicted in photographs—photographs that are so hard to accept—is the principal reason we are here today, this one book.

This book shows men, women, children donning their finest clothing and gleefully posing in front of deceased people who had been hanged and, prior to being hanged, often mutilated. Even worse, many photos were turned into postcards, until 1908, when the Senate at least amended U.S. Postal Service regulations to forbid the mailing of lynching photographs made into postcards. Think about that.

American history is rich with stories of heroes and heroines, as well as patriots, of patriotism. However, the lynching of so many Americans will always be a stain on our great democracy. Only after passage of time, only after growing pressure from civil rights organizations, only after over 200 antilynching bills, condemnation by foreign nations, petitions from seven U.S. Presidents, and outcries from the African-American press and some mainstream publications did the occurrence of this horrible act decline. But this book, published in 2000, is the real reason we are moving today.

It is my sincere hope that the relatives of the victims of these horrible acts will accept this body's sincere apology and take solace in the Senate finally recognizing its shortcomings.

It is also my sincere hope that the Senate does not stop with its apologies. There is much more to be done. We can honor the legacy of these victims by continuing to confront the challenges in civil rights before us in enacting legislation that will protect, for example, voting rights and improve the lives of so many Americans.

First, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand strong in support of reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act.

Second, disparities between African Americans and Whites in health care and education are still too great. I encourage this body to support legislation that will improve health care among African Americans, improve educational resources, and provide opportunities for African Americans in many different avenues.

Finally, I ask the families of the victims of these terrible crimes to accept the Senate's apology, and I pray that my colleagues will act positively on

upcoming legislation to honor the souls of those passed and that they may finally rest in peace.

Mr. President, again, I extend my appreciation to the majority leader in allowing me to go before him this afternoon.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

AFRICA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, President Bush, accompanied by the Presidents of five African States—Botswana, Ghana, Niger, Mozambique, and Namibia—announced the African Growth and Opportunity Act forum that will be held in July of this year in Senegal.

At that joint meeting and announcement of the Senegal meeting, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk with each of these African leaders, the Presidents of their respective countries, about the particular challenges their countries face and how the United States of America, working in partnership with them, can help.

We discussed our continuing efforts to help the nations of Africa fight disease and hunger and to develop sound, healthy, and accountable governance.

In our conversations, I underscored the need for continued political reform, for economic development, for investment in human capital, especially as we combat an issue the President talked a lot about earlier in the press announcement, and that is the tyranny of HIV/AIDS. We also discussed the President's plan to offer additional emergency aid to Africa at the upcoming G8 summit in July. This money is in addition to the \$674 million the President announced last week during Prime Minister Tony Blair's visit to Washington.

Needless to say, the African Presidents were overwhelmed by these initiatives. They were impressed by the leadership of Prime Minister Blair and President Bush and by the generosity of the American people.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, in what Treasury Secretary John Snow called an achievement of historic proportions, the G8, led by the United States and the United Kingdom, agreed to cancel more than \$40 billion in debt owed by 18 of the world's poorest countries, including 14 African nations.

Two hundred and eighty million African citizens will no longer labor under massive debtloads that have been crippling their ability to grow and prosper. This agreement wipes the slate clean. Their governments will see a combined savings of an estimated \$1.5 billion a year. As we discussed this morning, their challenge now is to invest those savings wisely and effectively.

If this money is used wisely, the people of these countries will see better education, cleaner water, less disease, and live better and more productive lives. Countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique—all will be

better able to focus their resources on economic development, education, health, infrastructure, and all the fundamentals that we know help to build prosperity.

They will be able to once and for all break the loan-debt-forgiveness cycle that has undermined their ability to grow and to invest.

Saturday's agreement will help many of Africa's poorest countries get on their feet and make meaningful strides toward the future.

President Bush and the Republican-led Congress have been steadfast supporters of Africa's development. I personally have had the opportunity to visit the continent of Africa on eight separate occasions, both as majority leader and as part of medical mission work on that wonderful continent. We have consistently championed efforts to promote accountability, good governance, political reform, and economic growth. Overcoming the problems that afflict the continent is tough work, it is difficult work, it is challenging work, but we are committed to helping Africa realize its rich potential.

Instead of seeing only problems and obstacles, we seek solutions. Instead of offering a Band-Aid, we offered smart aid. We as a country have much to be proud of in terms of our contributions. One only need to look at the statistics. So far this fiscal year, the United States has provided the continent of Africa with \$1.4 billion in humanitarian relief. President Bush has tripled America's contributions.

Today, nearly a quarter of every aid dollar to Africa comes from America, up from just 10 percent 4 short years ago. Yes, we really for the first time demand accountability from these investments. These aid dollars today are tied to economic and political reforms. Our goal is to help these countries root out corruption, to address human rights, to protect human rights, to promote the rule of law, and to build a stable, civil society, one that can meet the needs and demands of a growing and modern society.

Meanwhile, the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act, also known as AGOA, is already demonstrating its poverty fighting power. Last year, the Senate passed and the President signed the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act. As a result, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa have increased by 25 percent and America's imports from these participating countries are up 88 percent. Economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa is at an 8-year high.

Our goal is to break with the old approaches of the past where success was measured in dollars. Instead, we want real, measurable results, proof that the African people are benefiting from our efforts. And they are coming. I applaud the President for his strong and principled leadership. He understands that Africa can be and is a place of great hope and opportunity. He sees both the

practical and the moral dimensions of America's leadership.

Every human being needs and deserves the fundamentals of life: food, shelter, water, safety. Countries that fail in any of these basic functions become dangerous places for their citizens and potential threats to America's security. It is in our mutual interest to promote peace and stability on the African Continent.

As a physician, I have had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the continent. I have had the opportunity to perform surgery and operate in the oldest medical school on that continent in Uganda. I have had the opportunity to treat patients for war injuries, injuries from a civil war in southern Sudan, to treat patients with HIV/AIDS.

From that perspective, I was so proud when the President today was talking at the press conference with the Presidents of those countries about his HIV/AIDS initiative: \$15 billion committed by the United States, by our U.S. Congress, to combat what I believe is the greatest moral, humanitarian, and public health challenge of our times. I am also participating in an effort to help expand health care and spread goodwill through that health care across the globe. I believe—and I have had that little window to be able to see directly—that through the good works of many talented women and men of compassion medicine can be not only an instrument of health but by the delivery of that medicine and by the delivery of that public health care can be a true currency for peace.

I have seen that real tangible intervention can help bridge the gaps and misunderstandings that so often divide people, that can divide societies. We see that phenomenon in Afghanistan and Iraq and we saw it in Southeast Asia in the aftermath of the terrible tsunami tragedy. Countless health care professionals from all over the world, both volunteers and government workers, rushed to that devastated region to offer assistance. Private companies, corporations, and nongovernment organizations offered services and supplies. The outpouring of support from all over the world, led in many ways by American efforts, was truly an extraordinary event, a moving testament to our shared humanity. That is why in April I introduced the Global Health Corps Act of 2005. America possesses a vast reservoir of talent, skills, knowledge, and compassion that can both help heal but also promote health, both literally and figuratively, promoting our global ties. This is just one of the many efforts we are making to help promote peace and well-being on the African Continent. We are also reaching out directly to individual countries to help them tackle their most pressing problems.

Today, I also had the opportunity to speak with the President of Namibia. Namibia is one of Africa's greatest success stories. We were just there on a

congressional delegation about 2 years ago.

Just 15 years after attaining its independence from apartheid-led South Africa, Namibia has emerged as a multiparty, multiracial democracy with a stable market-based economy. Like many African countries, the greatest threat to Namibia's development and continued success is the spread of the virus of HIV/AIDS. Namibia is one of the countries most adversely affected by HIV/AIDS. Already, 22 percent of sexually active adults in Namibia are infected by HIV. AIDS accounts for half of the deaths among individuals between the ages of 15 and 19 in Namibia and for 75 percent of all hospitalizations in public facilities.

The continued spread of this disease will have a devastating impact on the Namibian people and their efforts to build on their already remarkable achievements. For this reason, it is critical to continue to fund the President's emergency plan for AIDS relief, or PEPFAR, to assist Namibia in their battle against this terrible disease.

PEPFAR funding for Namibia has increased from \$23 million in 2004 to an estimated \$36 million in 2005. The administration has requested \$49 million for 2006, and I encourage my Senate colleagues to support this funding as the Namibian people continue their fight against HIV/AIDS.

Despite its openness and competitiveness, the Namibian economy still faces a number of challenges. Since 1990, the annual per capita GDP growth rate in Namibia has averaged just 1.6 percent. The African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act is helping to capitalize Namibia's economic potential. Already, AGOA is estimated to have created 9,000 new jobs in Namibia. In addition, Namibia's 2004 exports to the United States under AGOA are valued at \$161 million.

These achievements I mention because they are a model for political and economic reform throughout the African Continent. Steady American support will enhance Namibia's ability to contribute to Africa's peace, security, and stability. The President has said America has a special calling to come to the aid of the African people and that "we will do so with the compassion and generosity that has always defined the United States."

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate and with the President to continue helping the continent heal and grow. We care deeply about the future of Africa. With time and an unwavering commitment to progress, I believe that together we can help Africa and its people share in the blessings of peace and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE R. NICHOLS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 168, which was submitted earlier today.