

Vermont, we held a hearing to commemorate this milestone, to talk about our Nation's progress over the past half century, and how we must move forward if we are to live up to the ideals enumerated in the Constitution. My former colleague from the House and an American hero, Representative JOHN LEWIS, shared his recollections and his hopes for the future with us.

Today, however, it is with great sadness that I come to the Senate floor to talk about a rash of incidents involving the hanging of nooses in this country. These incidents are a painful reminder of just how far we have to go. I am introducing a Senate resolution that expresses the sense of the Senate that: the hanging of nooses is a horrible act when used for the purpose of intimidation, and which under certain circumstances can be a criminal act; that it should be thoroughly investigated by Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities; and that any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted. The House of Representatives unanimously passed a similar resolution, H. Res. 826, on December 5, and I ask the Senate to take the same action.

American students are being targeted by this epidemic of hate crimes, many of which have occurred after the Jena Six incident arose. Just this year, nooses were discovered hung on the campuses of the University of Maryland, Indiana State University, the United States Coast Guard Academy, East Carolina University, North Carolina State, Columbia University, Louisiana State University, and Purdue.

Nooses are being found in elementary and high schools, in Illinois, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and New York. And so we have a new generation of children who are growing up with the same symbols of hate that proliferated more than 100 years ago.

Our Nation's first responders are targeted with these symbols of hate: firefighters in Jacksonville, FL, and police departments in Hempstead and Brooklyn, NY. Nooses have been displayed in hospitals in Pittsburgh, PA, and Orangeburg, NY. Finally, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed more than 30 lawsuits for hanging nooses in the workplace since 2001, and stated that it observed "a disturbing national trend of increased racial harassment cases involving hangman's nooses in the workplace."

Let us remember the chilling history of the United States on this subject. The hanging of nooses and lynching was first used to punish African slaves as early as the 17th century and was still commonplace in the United States until the 1960s civil rights movement. An estimated 5,000 people were lynched in the United States—roughly 70 percent of whom were African-Americans—between the 1880s and 1960s.

Mr. President, the situation is even more dire than most Americans imagine. The Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project counted 844

active hate groups in the United States in 2006.

Hate crimes' tentacles reach far beyond the intended targets. They bring a chill to entire neighborhoods and create a sense of fear, vulnerability, and insecurity in our communities. They poison the well of our democracy and strike at the very heart of the American spirit.

Hate crimes are un-American. They cannot be tolerated. When individuals are targeted and attacked because of who they are, entire communities suffer, we are all diminished by it. I call on the Senate today to condemn the recent spate of noose hangings and urge vigorous Federal, State, and local investigation and prosecution of criminal violations.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE REPORTS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to notify all Senators that the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted Regulations Governing the Public Availability of Conference Reports, effective December 7, 2007.

These regulations were promulgated pursuant to Public Law 110-81, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

I ask unanimous consent that the regulations be printed in the RECORD.

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

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE REPORTS

(Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration, United States Senate, Effective December 7, 2007)

1. Section 511 (b)(1) of Public Law 110-81, enacted on September 14, 2007, authorizes the Committee on Rules and Administration to promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Under the direction of the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Government Printing Office shall create and maintain a publicly accessible website that shall make available conference committee reports.

3. The Government Printing Office shall affix a time stamp to each conference report noting the date and time the report was made available to the public on the website. The Government Printing Office shall also notify, in writing or by e-mail, designated staff of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of the date and time the report was posted on the website. The 48-hour period of public availability of a conference report prior to a vote on the adoption of the report, required by Section 511 (b)(1) of P.L. 110-81, shall commence on the date and time of the time stamp, unless there is an earlier public posting on a Congressionally authorized website.

4. The Government Printing Office shall provide public notification of this website through communications with the Library of Congress and the Federal Depository Library system.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, today is Human Rights Day. Fifty-nine years ago today, thanks in large measure to the tireless leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The principles encompassed in the declaration are uniquely rooted in the American tradition, beginning with our founding documents. Yet the declaration also wove together a remarkable variety of political, religious, and cultural perspectives and traditions. The United States and the United Kingdom championed civil liberties. The French representative on the committee helped devise the structure of the declaration. India added the prohibition on discrimination. China stressed the importance of family and reminded U.N. delegates that every right carried with it companion duties. Today should be a day of celebration, a day when we hail the universality of these core principles, which are both beacons to guide us and the foundations for building a more just and stable world.

The Universal Declaration was a radical document in its time, and its passage required courageous leadership from political leaders. Even though no country could have been said to be in full compliance with its provisions, including the United States where Jim Crow still prevailed, all U.N. member states committed themselves to promoting, protecting, and respecting fundamental human rights. Although Franklin Delano Roosevelt did not live to see the enactment of the historic declaration, it enshrined his "four freedoms"—freedom from want, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom from fear. Individuals in the United States and everywhere else were entitled, simply by virtue of being human, to physical and economic security. The declaration was born of the recognition, in the words of one human rights scholar, that "what is pain and humiliation for you is pain and humiliation for me."

Anniversaries are a good time to examine how faithful we have been to our own aspirations—to ask ourselves how well we are measuring up, to assess whether our practice lives up to our promise. We in the United States enjoy tremendous freedoms, but we also carry a special responsibility—the responsibility of being the country so many people in the world look to, just as they did in Mrs. Roosevelt's day, for human rights leadership.

Today, on this anniversary, we must acknowledge both bad news and good news. The bad news is that for nearly seven years, President Bush has ignored Franklin Roosevelt's wise counsel about the corrosive effects of fear. Indeed, instead of urging us to reject fear, he has stoked false fear and undermined our values.

Wounded by a horrific terrorist attack, we were warned that Saddam Hussein—a man who had nothing to do

with that attack—could unleash mushroom clouds from nuclear bombs. We were told that waterboarding was effective. We were assured that shipping men off to countries that tortured was good for national security. We were led to believe that our military and civilian courts were inadequate, and so we established a network of unaccountable prisons. And the administration launched secret wiretapping initiatives, scoffed at the rule of law, and flaunted the will of the Congress.

Nonetheless, in his second inaugural, President Bush rightly proclaimed, "America's vital interests and our deepest beliefs are now one." But, tragically, he has failed to heed his own words. We have not only vacated the perch of moral leader; we have also compounded the threat we face, spurring more people to take up arms against us.

The further bad news is that other countries have not stepped up to fill the void left by our lack of moral leadership. The hundreds of thousands killed and two million displaced by the genocide in Darfur; the shell-shocked Buddhist monks in Burma; the political opposition in Zimbabwe; the imprisoned independent journalists in Russia; the brave human rights lawyers and judges in Pakistan—they do not know where to turn internationally. Human rights abusers win seats on the U.N. Human Rights Council, the International Criminal Court issues war crimes indictments, but no country steps up to enforce them; the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations begs in vain for troops, helicopters and police to help stave off humanitarian catastrophes. For all these reasons, the world needs renewed, principled U.S. leadership.

There is another critical reason why America must again provide moral leadership on human rights: the fate of women around the world. Whether it is in creating wealth, access to capital, and property rights, or receiving quality education, health care, and social services, women still lag far behind men. And of course the lack of full reproductive rights can be a matter of life and death for too many women. Inequality means insecurity for women, especially those who comprise 70 percent of the world's poorest. There is a clear link between discrimination and violence against women; equality and empowerment of women is the most effective approach to ending violence against women. Today, violent acts against women, in the words of UNICEF, "are the most pervasive violation of human rights in the world today."

Women's inequality and the persistent prevalence of honor killings, trafficking, repression, and sexual assault nearly six decades after the Universal Declaration shame us all. One need only look to Saudi Arabia, where a 19-year-old woman, who was raped, instead of receiving treatment and support, was sentenced to 200 lashes and 6

months in prison for riding in a car with a non-related male. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Darfur, rape is routinely used as a weapon of war by militia and government forces. In northern Uganda, young girls are given as "prizes" to older male soldiers to reward performance.

In Pakistan, international observers report that one of the largest challenges facing its next election is guaranteeing women enough security so they can leave their homes to vote. In Iraq the militarization and rise of radical Islam has eroded women's rights. In Afghanistan, while nothing can compare to the day when the Taliban ruled the entire country, women throughout that country complain that their freedoms have been woefully curtailed. The United States alone cannot solve the problem of women's suffering and gender inequality around the world, but with new, principled leadership, the United States can elevate women's economic, political and social development to the top of our international agenda and ensure that women around the world know that they have a reliable friend and partner in America.

Let me close by saying that the very depth of the anti-Americanism felt around the world today is a testament not to hatred but to disappointment, acute disappointment. The global public expects more from America. They expect our government to embody what they have seen in our people: industriousness, humanity, generosity, and a commitment to equality. We can become that country again.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TERM OF SERVICE

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, within the Treasury Department is a Commissioner of Internal Revenue, who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Internal Revenue Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 provided that the Commissioner is appointed to a 5-year term.

This bill, co-sponsored by my good friend and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, CHUCK GRASSLEY, clarifies that the term of the Commissioner is a 5-year term, determined by reference to a 5-year term beginning with the term commencing on November 13, 1997.

This proposal is effective as if included in the amendment made by section 1102(a) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998.●

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT MILLER

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I celebrate the tenure of Wesley College president Dr. Scott D. Miller. After 10 years as president, Dr. Miller will step down to assume leadership of Bethany College in my home State of West Virginia in January 2008.

Founded in 1873, Wesley College is located on 50 acres in historic Dover, DE. Delaware's oldest private college, the school offers 30 bachelors and 4 associates degrees, and master's degrees in nursing, education, business administration and environmental science.

I first met Dr. Miller in 1997 when I was Governor of Delaware, and he was appointed as the 15th president of Wesley College. During his tenure, the college proudly reported record applications, a climbing enrollment, increased alumni participation and a greater minority presence. For these and other accomplishments, Dr. Miller has been nationally acclaimed for his contributions to higher education.

Under Dr. Miller's leadership, Wesley experienced substantial growth, including total enrollment increases from 1,052 to 3,210 and \$67 million raised in the Campaign for Wesley fund, with more than \$40 million earmarked for capital renovations and new construction. Dr. Miller oversaw the creation of four graduate programs and the establishment of a New Castle County campus for Adult Studies. In addition, he established an undergraduate nursing program and five other new undergraduate majors.

Beyond academics, Wesley College has also been granted membership in the selective Capital Athletic Conference and enjoys the addition of new varsity sports programs. Congratulations to the Wolverines who are again in the quarterfinals this year for the NCAA Division III South Region collegiate football championship.

To maintain Wesley's support of the local community, Dr. Miller was also instrumental in building an alliance with Delaware State University and the Friends of the Capital Theater to maximize the usage of the historic Capital Theater, positioning it as the premiere performing arts center in southern Delaware. The relationship was formalized in January 2007 with the three organizations becoming equal partners in the operation, management and programming of the theater.

In addition to all the accolades already mentioned, Scott and his family have become valued friends of mine and of many others in Delaware over the past decade. Dr. Miller's wife Ann is an educator in her own right and has been a full partner with her husband in supporting his efforts to lead Wesley to new heights. We were also lucky to have their daughter Ashlee serve as an intern in my Wilmington office this past summer.

Scott and Wesley College have also supported my charter school initiative in Delaware by being one of the first colleges in America to charter and provide space for a public charter school. Additionally, Wesley College was one of the first institutions to sign on as a partner of a homeownership initiative that I started in Dover by supporting the effort to increase homeownership rates in the capital city. Our new homeowners include employees of the