

It will make a difference in fighting terrorism, and it will make a difference in fighting all kinds of crime.

Last year's crime bill, Mr. President, had a major provision that provided that very significant amount of money to the FBI to develop the national central data base—DNA, fingerprints, identification of individuals, ballistics.

When I traveled Ohio the last few months and talked to local law enforcement officers, one of things that they told me was that is all well and good, but if we cannot access that information, if we cannot get it, if we do not have the tools to bring it to law enforcement, it will not do any good.

Several months ago, I visited the FBI and spent a day with them and spent a day with their experts in all of these different high technical fields. That, I found, is what local law enforcement had told me the FBI confirmed. That is, their fear is that local law enforcement will not have the resources so that we all can develop this national data base.

This is a unique role for the Federal Government. When we talk, Mr. President, about anticrime bills, anti-terrorism bills, we always should first focus on what can only the Federal Government do.

I submit, Mr. President, that the evidence is abundantly clear that it is only the Federal Government that can establish this national base throughout the country. Now, why is that? Let us pretend that we are the sheriffs in Lawrence county, Ohio, or the chief of police in Ironton.

Our ability to use these tools, to use these data bases, depends on three things.

Number one, we have to have the ability or the resources there, and we have to put the information in. We have to do a good job.

Number two, the FBI, of course, has to build up a national base, so we can access from a national point of view.

But the third thing that we sometimes miss is that my ability—if I am the chief of police or a police officer in Ironton—to get information is dependent not only on the local community, local police, local sheriff and local FBI, but also on tens of thousands of jurisdictions across the country, because we live in a very, very mobile society. People move around; criminals move around.

So what the Federal Government does and what we are doing in this bill—and again, I congratulate my colleague from Utah and Senator DOLE the majority leader, for having the wisdom to listen to local law enforcement, to listen to the FBI when they say this is what we need, and to set aside a provision of this bill and to take that \$500 million and say it will go down to local law enforcement so that we can, as a country, develop this national data base. It will, in fact, Mr. President, make a very substantial difference.

What are we talking about? What practical applicability does all of this

have? You know, I have said many times, Mr. President, that we debate in this Congress—in the Senate and in the House—on the national news media a lot of things regarding crime that really do not make a lot of difference. But giving local police officers the tools that they need makes a difference. It matters. It is important. This is what the provisions of this bill truly do.

What is the practical application? We have seen it on TV a lot in the last few in regard to DNA. One of the things that is sometimes missed is the fact that DNA can be used, and is used, every single day in this country to help clear from investigations innocent people, so that someone does not stay the focus of a criminal investigation. DNA can be used for that.

But the situation we have in this country today is that law enforcement officers throughout the country do not, as a rule, really have access to good DNA technology. The laboratories are not there. If the laboratories are there and they have access, there is waiting time. They have to pick only their top cases, only the highest priority cases.

This bill will help solve that problem by establishing the resources so we can have DNA laboratories and experts who can come into court and testify, no matter where that crime is committed.

How else does it help? Think how important it is if you are a police officer or a sheriff's deputy, and at 3 o'clock in the morning you are following a car and, for some reason, you make the determination you need to pull that car over, and you need to pull that car over on a dark road, away from civilization, away from people, and you do that. Is it not important that you know that when you run that license plate, that the information you get back on the ownership of that car is accurate? Is that not important? Is it not important, or would it not be important if you are a police officer and you had just arrested someone and you wanted to determine really who that person was, and you did not believe them when they told you who they were, if you could take that person back to your police cruiser and take his or her hand and put it up against a screen and have those prints electronically transmitted to a central data base, and within a matter of seconds know who that person really is? We have that technology today. It is not widespread because of the cost. But we have the ability to do that.

Would it not be important for our children, for possible victims of sexual abuse, to be able to start as a country what some States are just now beginning to do—that is, to develop a national data base, DNA data base of sex offenders? The sad truth is, Mr. President, that sex offenders have just about the highest repeat offender rate of any group of criminals. I think check forgers and those who pass bad checks probably have about the same number of recidivism. But it is a little different when we are dealing with a sex offender.

I think it is important that every sex offender who goes into prison gets their blood taken. It is constitutional. We can do it. We just have not put the resources behind it. We can take their blood and develop a national DNA data base of sex offenders. So when that person comes out—as most of them do—and if that person commits another offense—as many do, tragically—then we have that data base, and we have the ability to take any bodily fluid from the crime scene, anything, and match that up and make that DNA comparison. We will solve crimes, save lives, and we will convict sex offenders.

Mr. President, I could go on and on with example after example. This money is important. We talk a lot about what matters in crime and what does not matter. The money provided in this bill, the provision that Senator HATCH and Senator DOLE have put in, when they have listened to local law enforcement and to the FBI—these provisions are an integral part of this bill, a very important part of the bill. I congratulate them and thank them for putting it in the bill because it will truly make a difference.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I compliment the distinguished Senator from Ohio for an excellent statement and also the distinguished Senator from South Carolina. As usual, Senator THURMOND really covers these matters as well as they can be covered.

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO KITTY WILKA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I want to take a moment to wish Kathleen "Kitty" Wilka of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a happy sixty-fifth birthday.

Mrs. Wilka was born Kathleen Kelly on May 25, 1930, in Larchwood, Iowa. On August 16, 1948, she married Bill Wilka, and, together, they have built a strong family of 12 children and, so far, 28 grandchildren. Their son Jeff has worked in my Sioux Falls office for many years.

On behalf of the entire Wilka family, as well as my wife, Linda, and my staff, I want to wish Kitty Wilka the happiest of birthdays.

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#### RETIREMENT OF JAMES O. KING

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, throughout my career in public service, I have had