

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.

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.

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.

RETIREMENT OF JAMES O. KING

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

the good fortune of having a number of bright, loyal, and hard working individuals on my staff. One such individual is James O. King, now serving as Democratic Staff Director of the Senate Rules Committee, who is retiring on June 7.

Jim has been a very good friend to me for many years. He worked with me back when I served as Governor of Kentucky, came with me to Washington as one of my Administrative Assistants, and was Staff Director of the Rules Committee for 8 years.

He has served the Commonwealth in a number of roles in public administration, including working under no less than five Kentucky governors. In addition, he served in a number of capacities in higher education in the Commonwealth, including Vice President for Administration and also Administrative Assistant to the President of the University of Kentucky.

It seemed that no matter what job title he held, Jim was always working in public service, always trying to give something back.

We here in the Senate have been recipients of some of the fruits of his labor. Jim was a key person in 1988 to help the Committee review Senate rules and procedures. Under his direction, the Rules Committee has addressed a number of major pieces of legislation including the motor-voter bill and campaign finance reform. And all the while, he was still keeping a eye on the "nuts and bolts" of the Senate operation.

Anyone who's ever come in contact with Jim knows that he loves Kentucky, its people and its way of life. And, from what I understand from reliable sources, he's already getting in the swing of retirement by posting some of the best golf scores he's had in recent years!

We're going to miss Jim on the Rules Committee. And I know I'm speaking for my staff, the Rules Committee staff, and the Senate as a whole, in thanking him for his good work and wishing him all the best for his retirement.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on that November evening in 1972 when I learned I had been elected to the Senate, I made a commitment to myself that I would never fail to see a young person, or a group of young people, who wanted to see me. In the nearly 23 years since that election night, I have been inspired by an estimated 60,000 young people with whom I have visited.

Most of them have expressed concern about the enormous Federal debt that Congress has run up for coming generations to pay. Almost without exception the young people and I discuss the U.S. Constitution which forbids that any President spend even a dime of Federal money that has not first been authorized and appropriated by both the House and Senate of the United States.

Mr. President, I have been making these daily reports to the Senate since February 22, 1992. I began because I wanted to make it a matter of daily record the precise size of the Federal debt. As of yesterday, Wednesday, May 24, the Federal debt stood at \$4,887,785,166,023.46—\$18,554.12 for every man, woman, and child on a per capita basis.

MR. JEFFERSON WAS RIGHT: GOP BUDGET PROVES IT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, there has been a great deal of phony and highly partisan criticism of the Republican budget proposal—criticism which the liberal news media have hastened to circulate. However, polls show that the majority of American people are not misled, except those who insist that they are entitled to something for nothing.

To their credit, Republicans in Congress have delivered on their commitment to come forth with a budget to—First, balance the Federal budget in 7 years; second, cut Federal spending by \$961 billion; third, eliminate 140 Federal departments agencies and programs; fourth, freeze salaries of Members of Congress; and fifth, cut the Senate staff budget by 15 percent.

Mr. President, the American people obviously realize the dire financial straits into which our Nation has plunged as a result of decades of irresponsibility by those in charge of their Federal Government. But children understand the penalty for spending more money than they have in their piggy banks.

I have an example to share, a poignant letter from the sixth grade class of Swain County West Elementary School in Bryson City, NC:

DEAR SENATOR HELMS: Our teacher shared with us your letter which mentioned the Federal debt as of March 14, 1995, which was \$4,846,819,443,348.28.

We are amazed to see how large the Federal debt is and understand that anything that is "free", the working people pay for. We don't have much, but our class sends this collection to you and ask that you put it in the fund to reduce the Federal debt. Our generation is going to have to reduce this debt and we would like to begin our part now. We really want to help our country and as sixth graders we understand that you can't leave it up to somebody else to take care of what we must begin now."

Mr. President, enclosed with this letter came a check for \$44.75, emphasizing the obvious if these sixth graders in North Carolina can recognize the importance of balancing the federal budget, why can't Congress?

Needless to say, I greatly admire these young people and their teachers. Implicit in their letter is an obvious question: If politicians cannot live up to promises to balance the budget, the politicians perhaps should be called home to smell the coffee, if I may be

permitted to mix a couple of metaphors.

Mr. President, it is difficult to remain silent amidst false charges by the President and various Senators of his party that the Republican budget will cripple Medicare, the health care system upon which so many of our elderly have been encouraged to depend. Contrary to the false prophets, the Republican budget allows Medicare spending to increase each year by 7.1 percent.

Mr. President, the American people should always have realized that there is no such thing as a free lunch. Thomas Jefferson said it best:

To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude.

Mr. Jefferson also warned:

The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequences as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves.

Mr. President, that just about says it all, especially when one considers the moral injustice we are heaping upon our children and their children. This year Republicans made a promise to balance the budget. We should keep that promise. Balancing the Federal budget is simply a matter of doing what we were sent to Washington to do.

ERNEST K. KOPECKY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Ernest K. Kopecky has served as construction manager for the Architect of the Capitol and the Congress of the United States for 17 years. He began his service in 1978 and will retire this year. His tireless and unselfish efforts have contributed to the completion of many construction projects in the Capitol and in other buildings in the congressional complex and in maintaining and preserving the structures that house the legislative and judicial branches of the U.S. Government.

Under Mr. Kopecky's direction, such notable and historically significant projects as the restoration of the pedestal for the Statue of Freedom that crowns the Dome of the Capitol building and restoration of the Bartholdi and Neptune fountains have been successfully completed.

As a dedicated public servant, Ernest Kopecky has set an example for others. His genuine concern for quality of work and efficiency of those he supervises, his willingness to assist others, and his reputation for responsive service have brought great credit to the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and reflect positively on his colleagues in that office.