

NATO's military options both to stop fighting and to enforce a possible peace settlement have been planned in detail over the past months. NATO's military staff is prepared to act. All that is needed is the political will upon the part of NATO governments to give the green light. We can no longer afford to show any more patience for the indecision of our Allies. In my view the internationally community has already waited too long to put an end to the human suffering that is being inflicted on innocent men, women and children. After seven years of watching Milosevic play cat and mouse games with United States and European leaders, I believe that the only language this individual will respond to is the sound of missiles hitting and crushing strategic targets in his proverbial backyard.

Mr. President, yesterday NATO Foreign Ministers met in Brussels. In reporting on the outcome of that meeting, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright reported that NATO was united and ready to authorize bombing in Serbia. Earlier this week, President Clinton assured members of the Senate that any air strikes conducted by NATO against Serbia would not be "pinprick" strikes but would "send a very clear signal" that we mean business.

We in the United States need to lead by example. We cannot wait any longer—for humanitarian reasons, for human rights reasons, and for geopolitical reasons. If the international community fails to respond to Milosevic's continued assaults on Kosovo with force if necessary, then shortly there will be few if any ethnic Albanians left to protect in Kosovo and stability in the greater Balkans will be at risk.

Mr. President, I know that many of my colleagues share my views. I believe the American people as well.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 1968 AND 1998 BASEBALL SEASONS

● Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks about a fellow Nebraskan and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his legendary baseball season.

"Let us go forth a while and get better air in our lungs. Let us leave our close rooms. The game of ball is glorious."—Walt Whitman.

Indeed, this year baseball has been "glorious."

The highlight of my job is traveling our state and going into communities to listen and learn. These learning discussions reflect the diverse and varied needs of our state, but this summer there has been one constant in all of my meetings. From Omaha to Ogallala, from Bellevue to Beatrice, everywhere throughout the State, Nebraskans have been talking baseball—specifically, the heroics of Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa.

This year's heroics have left me reminiscing about the 30th anniversary

of another magical summer, this one in 1968, when the eyes of the world were trained on a native Nebraskan—the great Bob Gibson. The St. Louis Cardinal unleashed onto the baseball world quit possibly the best season a pitcher has ever thrown.

Nebraskans have come together to watch McGwire and Sosa pursue the number 61 in a way no one thought possible. It was as if these two hitting giants entered a zone unknown to us mortals. Before this season, it seemed unheard of to even mention the numbers 70 and 66. Allowing us to follow in their chase was like joining two explorers on the verge of discovering a new world.

The highlight of many a long day this season was to watch the nightly edition of ESPN's Sportcenter and see which man was setting history that day. At a time when divisions were tugging at the seams of our political system, baseball brought us together. Every American—Republican or Democrat, right, left or center—found common ground in watching these baseball pioneers explore a new sports frontier.

For me, only Bob Gibson's 1968 heroics match up with this season's, 1998 was as enjoyable as 1968 because of the tremendous season Bob Gibson had. As a New York Yankee fan, I have earlier, unhappier memories of Gibson. It was the 1964 World Series and the Cardinals were facing a tough Yankees lineup featuring Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle, and Whitey Ford. I was convinced the Bronx Bombers would win out. It was not to be. The determined Gibson won twice and finished off the series with a victory in the seventh and final game, earning the Most Valuable Player award.

In 1968, Gibson was coming off another World Series MVP award as the Cardinals defeated Carl Yastrzemski's Red Sox the previous year. Gibson started that season with some hard luck losses and did not get going until late spring. But once he got going, there was no stopping this train.

That summer I was in SEAL Team training in San Diego. A lot of people there were snarling, but none of them could match the menace Gibson wore on his face when he ascended the mound. When Gibson came to the mound, everyone in the park could feel his intensity. As his catcher, Tim McCarver, would say, he had the "Look." It seemed as though Gibson could "Look" a strikeout before he even began his pitching motion. He was a command pitcher who mastered the edge he needed for each batter who dared to engage him in combat. His renowned discipline, his pure intimidation and his intellect for the game created a master craftsman in the art of pitching. Whether it be his blazing fastball or his snapping slider, the sight of Gibson with his right leg ominously moving from beginning to end, while unraveling his cannon of a right arm, exploding the unhittable white ball into the leather of the catcher's paws was a sight for all.

In the beginning of June of 1968, Gibson began to unveil a performance so dominating, so powerful, it seemed as though the mystery of pitching had finally been solved and only Gibson had the blueprints, hand-delivered from the creators of the game. Starting in early June and finishing in early August, Gibson had thrown an astounding 10 shutouts. If not for one earned run against the Dodgers, Gibson would have finished with 71 straight scoreless innings, easily surpassing the record of 59 Orel Hershiser set in 1988. At one point, Gibson had pitched 95 innings, which is almost a half season for today's pitchers, and allowed only 2 earned runs, for an unheard-of ERA of 0.19.

This season, Randy Johnson led baseball with six shutouts. In 1968, Gibson had 13, shutting out every team but the Dodgers. The end of Cal Ripken's streak this year reminded us of the value of baseball's work ethic. In 1968, Gibson was also a dominating workhorse, completing 28 of his 34 starts and going into the eighth inning in all but two. Led by his fastball and slider, Gibson was the league champion in strikeouts with 268.

Recounting Gibson's 1968 season, Chicago Cubs Hall of Famer Billy Williams would say many right-handed batters suffered "Gibbyitis"—a mysterious malady that would somehow take batters ill on the day their team faced Gibson.

Gibson finished the 1968 season with a 1.12 ERA—which is the record for over 300 innings pitched, besting Walter Johnson's 1.14 in 1913. He won both the Cy Young Award and the MVP of the 1968 season, while also earning another Golden Glove Award for his strong fielding. His recordsetting exploits did not end in the regular season, as he set another Herculean record when he mercilessly fanned 17 Detroit Tigers in the World Series.

Bob Gibson dominated 1968. While doing so, he marveled America with a performance so strong, so masterful, so historic, that it should be remembered at a time 30 years later when two others stunned the country with their mythical skills. Nebraskans should be proud that one of us could produce such a season. I want to thank baseball for 1968 and 1998, both 'glorious' years.●

APPRECIATION FOR DEDICATED STAFF OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President. In these closing days of the 105th Congress, I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to those who toil everyday behind the scenes to make our lives easier. I am speaking of the very dedicated and professional group of public servants who comprise the Congressional Research Service. Access to reliable information—and the ability to get it quickly—is critical to the effective functioning of the Senate, and I am particularly grateful to the Congressional Research Service employees for