

some help to deal with their medical expenses. Equally important, it will be a very clear signal to them and to the country that when a mistake is made, when the Government does not do what it should do, when people suffer as they have suffered, that justice will be done. This bill is about justice.

It is now on its way to the President. Again, I thank all of those who have been involved in this: Senator LOTT, Senator JEFFORDS, Congressman HYDE, Senator BOB GRAHAM, PORTER GOSS in the House, the prime sponsor in the House, as well as Speaker GINGRICH.

DRUG INTERDICTION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I will now take a moment to discuss one of the most important accomplishments of this Congress. It is an accomplishment that occurred about 4½ hours ago. Back in July, I, along with a bipartisan, bicameral core group of legislators, came to the floor and introduced a bill that called for a major new effort to restore a balance to our drug interdiction and eradication efforts. Today, just this morning, after a few short months, this important effort has been included in the omnibus bill that we passed. It is included in the bill that is being sent to the President and that, with his signature, will then become law.

This bill, this effort, is about restoring balance to America's antidrug efforts. Restoring balance to America's antidrug effort is a major accomplishment of this Congress. It is vitally important to the future of America's children. Our drug interdiction efforts, keeping drugs out of this country, are lagging way behind where they ought to be. Drugs are far too plentiful, far too easy to find, far too cheap, far too easy to obtain. It is so easy. The amount of drugs in our country is at an unprecedented high level.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s we used to have a balanced antidrug strategy. We provided the right balance of resources to fight drugs. What do I mean by balance? I think we have to take a multifaceted approach to the drug problem. We have to have treatment for those who need that and who are willing to go into treatment. We have to have education and other methods to stop people from starting drugs. We have to have domestic law enforcement, most of which is handled at the local level but, of course, it also includes the DEA and the FBI. And, we also have to have international drug interdiction, stopping drugs from leaving the source countries—Peru, Bolivia and Colombia—stopping them on the high seas, stopping them at the border. We have to have all four components. What this bill does is restores that balance, or a better way of saying it, frankly, a more accurate way of saying it, is it begins to restore this balance.

This effort is not just about providing resources. It is demonstrating, rather, the will to stop drugs before

they reach our borders. This is not just about dollars. It is not just about dollars and cents. It is also about leadership. It is the Federal Government's—our—responsibility, and the Federal Government's alone to stop drugs at the source or in transit to our borders. In the other areas, where we talk about treatment, or domestic law enforcement, prevention, education, all of these are shared responsibilities of the local communities and the State and the Federal Government and the private sector and the nonprofit groups. But when we talk about drug interdiction, that is the one thing that nobody else can do but the Federal Government. That is our responsibility and the buck does, in fact, stop here.

It is the Federal Government's responsibility, and the Federal Government's alone, to stop drugs at the source or in transit to our borders. I have seen it firsthand. I have been to the Caribbean, I have been to the Bahamas, I have been off the coast of Haiti and off the coast of the Dominican Republic. I have been along the border in El Paso. I have been into New Mexico. I have talked directly to the men and women of this great country who are fighting this war. We have great people who are doing that. I have seen firsthand that what we are currently providing to uphold this responsibility is simply not enough. It is, frankly, inadequate. Just as we need military readiness to defend America against war, we need drug interdiction readiness to defend America against drugs.

We do know how to do it. We do know how to do it. We have great people. We got our ideas for this legislation from the experts, from men and women of key agencies such as the Coast Guard, Customs, DEA. That is where the ideas for this legislation that will now become law came from. Their resources have been dramatically reduced, tragically, in recent years. This bill begins—and I say begins—to fix this problem by providing the very resources they need. We could not be here today without their assistance.

This was a bipartisan effort. We worked with both sides of the aisle. We had Gen. Barry McCaffrey's involvement and his help and cooperation and assistance. Today we certainly can be proud of this victory, but today is just the first step. We have a long way to go to restore this balance. We will be back next year to continue this war. But make no mistake about it, this bill is a major step towards keeping drugs out of our country. This bill will mean more planes in the air, more ships at sea, less drugs on the streets of America. We are back in the business of putting the drug lords out of business.

I thank my good friend, BILL MCCOLLUM, Congressman MCCOLLUM from Florida, for leading this effort in the House of Representatives. I thank DENNY HASTERT, chairman of the Speaker's drug task force, who did a remarkable job in securing close to \$700 million to get this initiative started. I

also thank our bipartisan core group on drug interdiction—Senators PAUL COVERDELL, BOB GRAHAM, AL D'AMATO, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, LAUCH FAIRCLOTH, and of course PORTER GOSS, CHUCK GRASSLEY and KIT BOND.

The Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, and Majority Leader TRENT LOTT, both were absolutely instrumental in getting this included in the budget package that we just passed. But for them it simply would not have happened, and we know that.

The two chairmen of the Appropriations Committees, Senator TED STEVENS and Congressman BOB LIVINGSTON, deserve our thanks for taking the lead to include our initiative in their omnibus bill.

This legislation will make a huge difference in our efforts to win back America's future from the drug lords. It is just the beginning to restore the balance but it is a major, significant beginning. It is a major victory. I thank my colleagues who worked so very hard on this.

AFRICA: SEEDS OF HOPE ACT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I would like now to turn the Senate's attention to a very important foreign policy, as well as humanitarian, measure, a measure that has also been passed by the Congress. I am referring to the Africa: Seeds of Hope Act.

Back in July, Senator SARBANES and I introduced legislation on the Senate floor to promote small-scale agricultural and rural development in Africa, a bill cosponsored in the House of Representatives by our colleagues, DOUG BEREUTER and LEE HAMILTON, a bipartisan effort, a bill that will save lives, a bill that will help people help themselves.

The Africa: Seeds of Hope Act represents a commitment to seek ways to help farmers in sub-Saharan Africa through sustainable agriculture, research, rural finance and extension projects. The bill will also recognize important benefits such overseas agricultural advances could hold for America's farmers. The Senate and House have both passed the bill. It is now on its way to the President.

We need to sow seeds of hope in Africa. There are a vast number of people in Africa who go each day without the necessary nourishment that we in our country take for granted. In many parts of Africa, women and children struggle daily to find the food that will barely sustain them for another day.

The problem in Africa has worsened over the last 30 years, and this is in spite of the fact that in many parts of the world the situation is getting better, and in Africa it is getting worse. The number of Africans who are unable to produce the food and provisions they need to lead healthy, productive lives is tragically rising. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, around 215 million people are undernourished in sub-Saharan Africa, and

this number is expected to increase— increase dramatically—into the next century.

Food is the basic necessity of life. It is an unfortunate reality that many of the African people lead lives of needlessness suffering because they don't have the skills and tools necessary to help themselves. As a result, many African countries are dependent on the outside world for humanitarian assistance and basic nutrition. These countries import a large percentage of the food they consume. Africa's food imports are projected to rise from less than 8 million metric tons in 1990, to more than 25 million metric tons by the year 2020. Mr. President, this is a very, very dangerous trend, and it must be changed, it must be reversed.

The bill we just passed is based on the insight that the most effective way to improve conditions for Africa's poor is to increase the productivity of their agricultural sector. Whenever I travel to developing countries, I always like to spend time looking at that country's agricultural sector. I have seen firsthand in many countries that their rural areas can succeed through agricultural development and through the right kind of assistance, the assistance that uses the expertise that we have in this country at our universities, the expertise that we have among our farmers, to share that knowledge and that know-how.

About 70 percent of Africa's poor live in rural areas. That is where the major problem is, and that is where this bill can make a difference, because not only do we want to see and help these individuals in rural areas feed themselves, we also understand that if they cannot feed themselves, what they do is move to the cities. When they move to the cities, many times the conditions are even worse than the conditions they left in the rural areas. It is a trend we see worldwide, and it is a trend that is very, very dangerous. It breeds instability, and it breeds other problems.

Rural and agricultural markets play a critical role in the majority of the African workforce. It has been reported that 70 percent of African employment is in the agricultural market. If we are serious about opening up new trade relations with the continent—and we should be—then we need to be aggressive in helping to strengthen the foundation for their survival.

Let me outline a few highlights of this bill.

This legislation first encourages agencies and organizations to make rural development issues a priority by teaching effective farming methods to small-scale African farmers and entrepreneurs. This is people to people, farmer to farmer and not dealing with many of these governments.

It provides African small farmers and entrepreneurs with improved access to credit and other resources necessary to stimulate production in microenterprise.

It mobilizes new resources for investment in African agriculture and rural development through the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

It facilitates the coordination of national and international agricultural research and extension efforts aimed at developing the skills of African researchers, African extension agents, farmers and agribusiness people. In fact, the bill would allow American universities to play a pivotal role in this effort.

Finally, this bill requires the U.S. Agency for International Development, when providing nonemergency assistance through the Public Law 480 title II programs, to include assistance programs for people who are otherwise unable to meet their basic food needs, including feeding programs for the disabled, for the orphaned, for the elderly, for the sick and for the dying.

African farmers and the African people are in dire need of agricultural development. This bill can help them gain the knowledge they need for this important development. At the same time, the legislation will help our own agricultural producers by opening new export markets for American farmers, especially those who deal with value-added goods.

Mr. President, as the economies in sub-Saharan Africa develop, their citizens' incomes will increase, thus raising their standard of living. In turn, they will be in a better position to purchase a new variety of goods, including American agricultural commodities and equipment. This is where our export markets can flourish. As a citizen of Ohio, I am excited at the export prospects for the hard-working farmers of my own State.

Another significant point to consider is that food stability is a critical factor in preventing civil strife within nations. Our investment in international agriculture and rural development will help reduce demands for U.S. disaster and famine relief.

International agricultural development assistance has depleted over time. In fact, over the past decade alone, money for this program has dropped by 70 percent. We should refocus our efforts in this important program, and this bill will do that.

Under this bill, USAID will be called upon to use its resources for programs and improved food security and agricultural productivity for African farmers.

This legislation has the ability to make a real difference in the lives of real people. As a compassionate Nation, we should want to aid those less fortunate to better help themselves. The bill will help these individuals make important progress in meeting human needs. In passing this bill, the U.S. Congress has done some very important work, and I congratulate my colleagues for the bill as we send it on its way to the President.

AN ATROCITY IN WYOMING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, if I can turn to a much sadder topic. One of the saddest duties of public life is having to express moral truths. It is sad because it should be unnecessary. Thomas Jefferson two centuries ago enunciated some truths that he said "we hold to be self-evident." We hold to be self-evident.

It should be self-evident that in a country of liberty, a country of rule of law and respect for human rights that we should condemn the murder of any human being. We should, as a logical consequence of this principle, condemn the murder of people who have killed because the murderers disapprove of some aspect of the murder victim's personal life.

That is why our national attitude toward the atrocity that took place in Laramie, WY, on October 7 is so very important.

Let us all, as Americans, leave no doubt that the murder of young Matthew Shepard was a vicious, despicable crime. Again, it should—I repeat—should be self-evident. But Mr. President, I have seen news reports that protesters, demonstrators, hecklers went to this young man's funeral to spew hatred and venom. Some might say their demonstrations are protected by the first amendment, and that may or may not be true—and I am not going to deal with that and talk about that today—but what I wish to underscore today is that I, too, have first amendment rights—we all do—a right to tell the truth about these demonstrators' conduct. And to do so, polite phrases might not be enough.

So let's make it very clear: The people who committed this crime are despicable, they are scum. And the people who intruded on the privacy of this poor family, the family of the deceased, the people who intruded on their privacy at that hour of sorrow, to mock the deceased, mock this young man, these people who did this are lowlives—they should be condemned by all Americans. They deserve the contempt of all civilized people.

Mr. President, I see that my colleague from Virginia has been on the floor for some time. I also note the majority leader may be coming back at any moment. I would advise my colleague, the majority leader, as well as my colleague from Virginia, that I have some additional comments about another topic that would be fairly extensive. I would be more than happy to yield at this point, either to the majority leader or to my colleague from Virginia, just with the understanding that I will have the opportunity before the Senate does go out of session for the year to make these comments.

Mr. ROBB addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I appreciate the consideration of my colleague, the Senator from Ohio. I had planned to yield to the majority leader.