

It was at Auschwitz that Joseph Mengele performed his horrific experiments, injecting the hearts of live children with chloroform and performing all sorts of bizarre and vile surgeries on twins and pregnant women.

It was at Auschwitz that the Nazi killing machine first discovered and perfected the use of Zyklon-B to gas their innocent captives by the hundreds every day.

It was at Auschwitz that doomed prisoners, trapped inside the gas chambers with only a few choking minutes left to live, found the strength to scratch into the walls the words: Never forget.

This week, on January 27, the world will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the 1.5 million victims, most of them Jewish, who perished in the death machine's fires.

Vice President DICK CHENEY is leading an American delegation to stand alongside the 2,000 survivors, as well as surviving Red Army soldiers. He will be joined by Lynne, his wife, numerous world leaders, and by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel.

It will be a time for reflection, a time for remembrance but also for determination—determination that mankind will never again stand by as innocents perish in the monstrous designs of tyrants and despots.

It will be a time to recommit ourselves to the battle against intolerance, against fanaticism and hatred, all of which can so easily poison the hearts of the most seemingly civilized men and women.

As Kofi Annan declared yesterday during the United Nations General Assembly first ever recognition of the Holocaust:

The evil that destroyed 6 million Jews and others in those camps is one that still threatens all of us today.

Indeed, if you think of areas around the world, you think of the Darfur region today in western Sudan. To the innocents who perished, to those who survived and to the victims of genocide who now cry out, America's leaders hear your plea. We will never forget, and we will not stand by.

Auschwitz taught us that the war against tyranny is more than a war of territory, more than a war of geographic boundaries. It is a war against evil itself. As Justice Robert Jackson solemnly inveighed to the world at the start of the Nuremberg trials:

The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated.

NOMINATION OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, over the course of today, we will be considering the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State. I want to be the first on this floor and on this day to

honor Condoleezza Rice with our expression of strong support. She is an outstanding choice, and the American people are fortunate to have a public servant of her talent and her intellect.

During her tenure as National Security Adviser, Dr. Rice has been a steady and trusted adviser, a confidante of the President of the United States. In a role of crafting policy and helping guide decisionmaking, she has demonstrated extraordinary skill. But this should come as no surprise. Dr. Rice is a woman of remarkable accomplishments. Throughout her life, she has applied her razor-sharp mind and her steely determination to reach the highest peaks of achievement. And it started early.

Dr. Rice was born in Birmingham in 1954. By the age of 3, she was already a piano prodigy, playing hymnals for her family. By age 5, she was playing right alongside her mother on the church organ bench. At 19, Condoleezza Rice earned her bachelor degree in political science cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Denver, and just a year later her master's from Notre Dame. At the young age of 26, having earned her Ph.D., Dr. Rice became an assistant professor at Stanford University. A decade later, Dr. Rice was elevated to the post of provost, which at Stanford and most universities is the equivalent of the chief operating officer of the university.

From 1989 to 1991, Dr. Rice served the first Bush administration as Director and then as Senior Director of Soviet and East European Affairs at the National Security Council. During this time, Dr. Rice brought her considerable expertise in Eastern European affairs to the administration's handling of the collapse of the Berlin Wall, Germany's reunification, and the transition of the Soviet Union to the Russian Federation. This, combined with her years of foreign policy experience, particularly in the post-9/11 context, makes her distinctly qualified to lead the Department of State.

We are a nation at war. As Secretary of State, Dr. Rice will be a key player in winning this war. She will have the responsibility of advancing democracy and freedom across the globe, not only to protect us from attack but to fulfill America's unique moral purpose. Outlaw regimes must be confronted. Dangerous weapons of proliferation must be stopped. Terrorist organizations must be destroyed. Dr. Rice has both the ability and the experience, from fighting the Cold War through fighting this war on terror, to meet these daunting challenges.

Dr. Rice possesses a rare combination of management and administrative experience, of public policy expertise, of high academic achievement and, not least importantly, a graciousness that will serve America's interests well in these difficult and challenging times. America needs a leader of her caliber.

Dr. Rice has said that while growing up, her dad John and her mother

Angelena taught her that in a country where racial segregation and Jim Crow were an ugly fact of life, she had to be twice as good to get ahead. I think it is fair to say she has surpassed this high charge.

Dr. Rice is an author, a classically trained pianist, an ice skater, and tennis player. She speaks Russian fluently and is an avid fan of football. In fact, we are grateful she has set aside at least for the moment her ambition to become commissioner of the National Football League.

A woman of deep faith in God, liberty, and freedom, Condoleezza Rice will protect and serve our national interests. I should also note Dr. Rice would be the first African-American woman to serve as Secretary of State. I urge the Senate to give Dr. Rice their strong support. I hope and expect to see her confirmed swiftly so she can begin addressing the urgent threats and challenges that face our Nation.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Senator from Colorado.

NOMINATION OF CONDOLEEZZA RICE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his very strong support of President Bush's nominee, Dr. Condoleezza Rice. I like to think of her as a Coloradan. In Colorado, we are extremely proud of her record.

I rise today in strong support of President Bush's nominee for Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice. I ask my colleagues to join me in approving this nominee so that she can assist President Bush in making his version of a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community a reality.

As many already know, Dr. Rice was born and raised in Alabama. In 1969, her father moved their family to Colorado to take an academic position at the University of Denver. Dr. Rice soon enrolled in Denver's St. Mary's Academy, an independent Catholic school and the first integrated school she attended. After high school, she earned her bachelor's degree in political science, cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Denver in 1974 and returned a few years later to get her Ph.D. from the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver in 1981.

Dr. Rice may have only spent a few years in Colorado but we in Colorado are certainly proud of what she has accomplished and like to consider her a daughter of the Centennial State.

Clearly, Condoleezza Rice is eminently qualified for the post of Secretary of State. I know many of my colleagues are aware of her years at Stanford University, including her service as provost. In addition, she served on the National Security Council during George H. W. Bush's administration as Director of Soviet and Eastern European Affairs, which witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall. She has come full circle since then and again served on the National Security Council but this time as the national security adviser to our current President and has done a magnificent job during very turbulent times.

Since then, Dr. Rice has consistently provided the President with sound advice on national security and foreign policy. She has been balanced, fair, and determined to ensure that President Bush received the best possible advice.

Some have questioned Dr. Rice's role as national security adviser and how she shaped the Bush administration's policies since the tragedy of September 11, 2001—specifically, our action against the Saddam Hussein regime. I believe she was instrumental in encouraging the President to utilize every diplomatic approach possible. We should not forget that President Bush went to the United Nations, secured a Security Council resolution demanding disarmament, and worked with our closest allies to ensure that Saddam Hussein complied with his obligations. The President also sought authorization from this Congress, which over three-quarters of this body supported. Unfortunately, Saddam Hussein would not keep his end of the bargain and we were left with no choice but military action. I am thankful during this turbulent period that Dr. Rice ensured the President received advice from multiple viewpoints so he could make the bold decisions necessary for our security.

The Hussein regime is now out of power. The former dictator and killer of thousands is sitting in prison and the first democratic elections in Iraq are about to take place. Our Nation is more secure because a dangerous regime, with a history of aggression and links to terrorist organizations, is no longer in power.

Today, America has demonstrated its resolve in the global war on terror. American troops and their coalition allies have achieved this historic effort thanks to their sacrifice.

As democracy in Iraq succeeds, a message will be sent forth that freedom can be the future of every nation and that freedom improves the peace and security of the United States.

I am certain Dr. Rice will present this powerful message abroad with skill and determination. Just as importantly, Dr. Rice understands that successfully fighting the war on terror is not solely a military task. Dr. Rice will seek to use our powerful diplomatic leverage to better protect our Nation. She will also guide our Na-

tion's diplomatic efforts to solve regional and civil conflicts in the Middle East, between Israel and its Arab neighbors, in Sudan, Congo, and Liberia, in the Balkans, in Cyprus, in Haiti, in Northern Ireland, and elsewhere. Her leadership in the important multilateral discussions with the North Koreans on their pursuit for weapons of mass destruction will be pivotal.

There are also other challenges which Dr. Rice must tackle with our social and economic development programs that the State Department manages. The promotion of free trade and investment worldwide, the fight against HIV/AIDS, and the implementation of the Millennium Challenge Account are but a few ways we can seek to provide our friends and allies around the globe with much needed stability and vitality.

When the President announced his intention to nominate Dr. Rice to be Secretary of State, he spoke of relying on her counsel, benefiting from her experience, and appreciating her sound and steady judgment. I am pleased that the President has sought to replace our current Secretary of State, Colin Powell, with another so well equipped for the challenges that lie ahead.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Secretary Powell for his service to our great Nation. He has given so much of himself while serving during his long and distinguished military career before finally leading the Department of State. These two Americans are two of our best. We are privileged that while Secretary Powell steps down to pursue new challenges, the United States has someone of Dr. Rice's credentials to continue to carry the torch of liberty abroad.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Condoleezza Rice as our 66th Secretary of State.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, historians Will and Ariel Durant have told us, "The present is the past rolled up for action and the past is the present unrolled for understanding." In our search for understanding and guidance for our actions, we are pausing today to commemorate one of the darkest moments of modern history, the Nazi Holocaust, the effort by the Nazi regime to exterminate the Jewish people. Six million Jews were sent to their death before the end of the death camps. Sixty years ago today, the Auschwitz death camp was liberated,

bringing an end to the slaughter of well over 1 million people at that location alone. As unfathomable as that reality is, we need to seek to understand it in order to prevent it. I am not sure if we can ever truly understand it.

In some ways it is kind of bizarre, but we need to understand that while genocide in Germany, Cambodia, Rwanda, and elsewhere may end up as a kind of mass insanity in some almost bizarre way, it begins in a terribly misplaced idealism.

The Khmer Rouge thought that returning Cambodia to its rural beginnings was the way to create a good society. They became so convinced that modernity was destroying their people that they attempted to forcibly empty the cities and kill anyone with a professional degree or anyone who even wore glasses. They even kept careful records of those they killed because they assumed history would honor them for their actions. The Germans kept records, too. It is difficult for me to fathom they would believe that history would honor them for their actions.

The situation in Rwanda dates back to the colonial period, when European colonial powers favored Tutsis over Hutus. When independence was hastily granted and the Europeans departed, a seesaw of vengeance and reprisals began, which escalated unchecked for 30 years. When historic anger boiled over, with the failure of the international community to step in, a terrible period of violence claimed over half a million people.

The fact that genocide could happen in an industrialized, cultured nation that had produced Beethoven and Goethe is especially chilling. As we read the various accounts of what was happening in the Third Reich, it astounds us that people could come to such conclusions. It astounds us that so many good people could do nothing, did nothing. While millions were slaughtered, they turned their backs and shut their eyes.

Auschwitz was not conceived as a death camp. It was part of Hitler's and Albert Speer's master plans for bold new Nazi "Cities of the East" that would express their vision for society. Such projects required slave labor for which Jews and others were likely candidates. The rise of democratic socialism in Germany was in part a reaction to their hatred of communism in the Soviet Union. So they had a strategy to empty the lands of Poland and Russia for resettlement by an expanded Germany. Such was their grandiosity that human beings became objects to be used for their plans and obstacles to be destroyed. They dehumanized the Jewish people.

The lessons of these three examples is: Hatred combined with any number of other circumstances can explode into genocide. Even as the situations in Darfur and elsewhere continue, we would be naive and foolish to believe that mankind has "learned its lesson."