

was there also. I ask unanimous consent that his reflections, "The Light of a Fierce Fire," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the U.S. News & World Report, Nov. 20, 1995]

THE LIGHT OF A FIERCE FIRE  
(By Mortimer B. Zuckerman)

The poet was once asked, "If your house was burning and you could save only one thing, what would you save?" The poet answered, "I would save the fire, for without the fire we are nothing."

It was Yitzhak Rabin's destiny not to be saved from the frenzy of a madman. But bullets cannot so easily extinguish what Rabin's bravery and vision ignited, the fire of Israel's commitment to peace. He might so easily have died in the din of battle, this man who made war when he had to. But he died instead amid the clamor of peace, with the acclaim of a mass peace rally of Israelis still in the air and still in his mind. It would be his last wish that the flame of peace, for which he gave his life, should not be dimmed by anger and despair. His state funeral, for all its sadness, was inspiring as an occasion for the vindication of his hopes, for a new dedication to Israel's security from America and for a demonstration of goodwill by some former Arab enemies.

President Clinton led a bipartisan delegation that included the congressional Republican leadership, former President Bush and former Secretary of State George Shultz. It was more than a respectful gesture of protocol. This was a statement of emotional and psychological support from the most powerful nation in the world to a small, isolated country, living in a perilous neighborhood and in a time of great national trauma: We do more than share your grief, we understand your fears; and we will not desert you as you have so many times in your history been deserted. All Americans could take pride in President Clinton's splendid eulogy; in the uniqueness of America's compassion and friendship that extended beyond a calculation of narrow national interest; in the honor of the hand outstretched at a time of need to an ally and friend. The president rose to the moment. The hundreds of thousands of people who lined the roadside and saw the American delegation were clearly moved.

Of equal significance was the roll call of certain Arab countries (excluding Saudi Arabia) and especially the emotional speech of King Hussein of Jordan. His words referring to Yitzhak and Leah Rabin as "my brother" and "my sister," which Muslims usually reserve for one another, and the tears shed by both the king and his queen, made a deep impression on the Israelis for their humanity and ability to overcome the past. Here, clearly, were keepers of Rabin's flame of peace, continuing a line that began with Egypt's late president Anwar Sadat.

It is hard for outsiders to appreciate the effect on Israelis of the worldwide outpouring of sympathy and condolence, with some 80 nations represented at the funeral. The Israelis are a traumatized people. They have for so long been alone, so long believed they could not rely on anyone but themselves, so long expected the world to stay silent in their times of trouble. The extensive response resonates for a people who remember how the world closed its doors to millions of Jews in the 1930s. Their deaths in the Holocaust were but an obscene multiple of the deaths endured in the crusades and programs of earlier centuries when the Jews were betrayed by those who had the power to save them.

Israel was to be the end of that vulnerable status of perpetual minority, an end to exile and alienation, and a beginning of a normal and natural form of national existence. Israel was home, the new home in the old country, proclaiming that the Jews had formed a self-reliant community and did not need others to fight their battles for them. Now they had their future defined by their own family; the farmer, the kibbutznik, the jet pilot, the shopkeeper, the schoolteacher could coalesce with a traditional language, with their own bible, their own culture. This self-reliance is a matter of great pride. Jews could look after their own family. When the Jews were kidnapped in Entebbe, Uganda, it was the Israelis who took care of it. A Jewish majority could eliminate Jewish vulnerability, and with their own state, the Israelis could, they thought, be like all other nations and like everyone else. The passion for wanting to be normal extended to the notion that to be accepted, Jews did not have to justify themselves by winning the Moral Man of the Year Award every year—at the cost of their own survival. To be 10 percent more moral than other nations would make them a light unto the world; if they were expected to be 50 percent more moral, they would be dead.

And yet Israel cannot be just another secular country. This very land forces the Jews into a dialogue with their religious past. The land was defined through religion, through the divine promise to Abraham, the covenant with the Father and the covenant with the people of Israel. For many religious Zionists, the victory of the Six-Day War, and the subsequent opening to resettlement of the greater land of Israel, were clear signs that God was guiding the secular Zionist revolution toward the ultimate realization of the prophetic vision of history. That is why, for some religious Jews, admitting the existence of a Palestinian nation whose homeland is the Holy Land is tantamount to violating the integrity of the Jewish people's covenantal identity. But the Jews faced a dilemma. They had come home to find peace and safety, only to find that their neighbors also claimed this tiny piece of land as their home. Even worse, how do you share a home with someone who says: "You have no right to be here?"

It is the great contribution of Yitzhak Rabin that has brought a moral answer to this dilemma. There are those Israelis who emphasize self-reliance and remember Rabbi Hillel's saying, "If I am not for myself, who is for me?" Rabin understood Rabbi Hillel had a second part: "When I am for myself, what am I?" He saw that the Jews could not control 2 million Arabs without frequent resort to a violence that would erode the moral and Jewish character of the state and, with that, its support in the world. He sought a new definition of Israeli strength and normalcy that incorporated not just military power but also moral and economic fortitude. He decided to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and any pretense that Israel could become a binational state in which one people ruled another.

He was uniquely qualified for this adventure. Those to his political right had the strength but not the will to take a calculated risk for peace. Those to his political left had the will but not the strength. He alone, at the time, had the capacity to persuade the divided and wary Israelis to accept a compromise arrangement with the Palestine Liberation Organization that held great promise for peace but also great risk. But the risk was seen as a risk from the Arabs, not the risk of Jew killing Jew. What the right-wing fanatics were blind to is that their murderous intransigence threatened the state that gave them succor and its necessary acceptance by the world. Without the

flame of peace, they would have nothing but bloodshed threatening every Israeli's personal security.

The debate over security in Israel is different from the quarrel with the extremists. Many moderate people all across Israel are concerned about giving up land, because for years their leaders told them this land was essential to their national security. In Israel, security decisions are made in the context of the terrible reality that a single Israeli strategic blunder may mean not only military defeat but a genocidal threat to the very existence of the state—one that the world could not forestall, even if it were willing to. Many Israelis ask: Will the peace process be the beginning of a new future or the beginning of the end?

The Israelis are determined to avoid another genocide, this time in Israel. The decision to exchange lawfully captured territory for the promise of peace from those who have constantly threatened violence is fraught with unprecedented risk. Israel will not survive in this neighborhood by superior morality in the absence of superior real strength. Arab moderation is in direct proportion to Israeli strength. If the Arabs could defeat Israel, who could doubt that sooner or later they would try?

Can Shimon Peres, a durable politician less trusted by Israelis, lead the people in pursuit of Rabin's twin goals of peace and security? He is a consummate international diplomat and served with great distinction as prime minister a decade ago. His ardent desire for peace may be part of his problem, for many people believe he is too eager to cut a deal, too dovish and not skeptical enough about security issues, too wrapped up in his own ambitions. So his challenge is to relieve the worries of Israelis as well as meet the needs of the Palestinians.

In this effort, American support is crucial. Rabin said he was elected to take risks for peace. President Clinton said, "If that is your goal, I will do my best to minimize the risks you must take." That is the fire of friendship and support that will enable Israel to fulfill what Rabin so bravely began.

OUR HATS OFF TO RICHARD  
EKSTRUM

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, on many occasions I have taken the floor to talk about agriculture in South Dakota. The wonders of American agriculture tell a story that is not told often enough. Individual initiative and determined efforts have led to scientific discoveries that advanced agriculture. The inspirational strength of family, loyalty and faith also have contributed to the wonder that is American agriculture.

In no American workplace is there found greater productivity, cooperation, neighborly concern, creative use of applied science, hard work, and independence than on the farm and ranch. It gives me great pride to witness the ability of our farmers and ranchers to provide abundant and high quality food and fiber for all our citizens and millions of others throughout the world. The story of American farmers and ranchers is truly a wonder of the modern world.

There is the story of Richard Ekstrum of Kimball, SD. This week Richard will be stepping down as President of the South Dakota Farm Bureau. He has held that position since he

was first elected to it in 1975. Richard's leadership has helped to shape the vigorous South Dakota livestock industry. His accomplishments are many, too many to list here. But for those of us who know him, it is agreed that his boots will be hard to fill.

Richard Ekstrum has provided me with invaluable advice and counsel throughout my years in the House and Senate. He has been a tireless defender and promoter of South Dakota and American agriculture. After each meeting with him I know exactly what needs to be done. All meetings with him are productive. I will miss his regular advice and leadership, but I am heartened to know he is still just a phone call away.

Richard recently was quoted as saying, "I will always be part of Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau will always be a part of me." Similarly, I would like the RECORD to reflect that Richard Ekstrum will always be a part of South Dakota agriculture, and vice versa.

Richard owns and operates a 3,500 acre general livestock and grain farm near Kimball, SD. He and his two brothers operate this farm, which has a commercial farrow-to-finish hog operation and produces purebred Simmental cattle.

Richard first joined Farm Bureau in 1967 and rose through the ranks of the Brule County Farm Bureau organization to become President of the South Dakota Farm Bureau in 1975. He was elected in 1980 to the Board of Directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a position he held for a decade. He has travelled the globe—28 countries in total—to promote and advance American agriculture. He recognizes that the continued strength of American agriculture rests with its ability to compete in the world market place. That is part of the reason why Richard Ekstrum is a recognized and respected national leader in agriculture.

The strength of the Farm Bureau organization is rooted on the farm. The history of the South Dakota Farm Bureau is impressive. As early as 1913, several county Farm Bureaus were organized and operating in South Dakota. In 1917, the operating county Farm Bureaus formed the South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation. Today the South Dakota Farm Bureau is my State's leading agricultural organization and a highly regarded voice for South Dakota farmers and ranchers.

Much of the success of the South Dakota Farm Bureau can be attributed to Richard Ekstrum. Under his leadership the organization witnessed its largest membership growth. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, membership averaged 3,100 farm families. During the 1970's, its programs were expanded and since 1977 family membership in the South Dakota Farm Bureau has grown each and every year to the point where it represents more than 10,000 South Dakota farm and ranch families.

One of the many programs sponsored by the farm bureau and strongly promoted by Richard is the South Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. This group provides opportunities for greater participation by young, active farmers and ranchers. It helps young farm bureau members analyze their particular agricultural problems and collectively find solutions that best meet their needs. I am very pleased with the success of this program. I have said on many occasions that we need to do more to promote the promise of farming for younger generations. These young people represent the future of South Dakota agriculture.

Richard Ekstrum and the South Dakota Farm Bureau are committed to the goal of improving net farm income and strengthening the quality of rural life. I commend Richard for his loyalty to and hard work for the South Dakota Farm Bureau. He has left his mark on the landscape of South Dakota agriculture and his community. His wife Agnes and his two daughters can be truly proud. I know Richard will continue to be active in his church, in civic and private organizations, the South Dakota Farm Bureau and in South Dakota agriculture.

Richard is known for saying, "Of all the hats that I wear, I like the one of being a farmer the best." Today, on behalf of all South Dakotans, I take my hat off to Richard Ekstrum.

As I stated before, the wonders of American agriculture tell a story that is not told often enough. It is a story of proud Americans, like Richard Ekstrum, who do their part in the world's most proficient industry, day after day. I enjoyed and will continue to tell the many stories of South Dakota men and women who contribute to the greatest story ever told—American agriculture.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CHATTANOOGA RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and commend the Chattanooga Ronald McDonald House, which will celebrate its fifth anniversary in a "Blaze of Glory" this weekend.

The Ronald McDonald Houses provide a loving atmosphere for seriously ill children to be close to their families while they are cared for in a nearby hospital. Often, these houses are considered to be the families' home away from home during these hardships. The "House That Love Built," which is the name of the Chattanooga Ronald McDonald House, has assisted almost 1,800 families from 32 States and 2 foreign countries, and is 1 of 162 Ronald McDonald Houses in the United States.

This weekend will mark the fifth anniversary for the Chattanooga Ronald McDonald House. They will celebrate the anniversary by burning the recently resolved mortgage on the house in a "Blaze of Glory." Mr. President, I

would like to thank the staff, the more than 300 volunteers and the donors that have made the "House That Love Built" a safe and useful tool in treatment of our catastrophically ill children. Their combined efforts will not go unnoticed, and I wish them well in their celebration this weekend.

#### OWENSBORO LEGENDS OF RACING HOMECOMING

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, anytime someone from our hometown gains national recognition for their talents, we all feel a sense of pride and ownership—that somehow we've contributed to that success.

I know all those from the city of Owensboro and from Daviess County will be doing their share of boasting during the Owensboro Legends of Racing Homecoming.

It provides us with a chance to show off some of our homegrown talent, and to thank these racers and crew members for representing our community so well in competitions across the country.

I know all Kentuckians are just as proud as I am of Darrell and Michael Waltrip, Jeremy Mayfield, and the Green boys—David, Jeff, and Mark. Any weekend we turn on the television and watch the NASCAR races, we enjoy it that much more knowing that they're successes reflect so well on Owensboro, and our entire State.

Working closely with the NASCAR drivers are nine pit crew members from Owensboro and Daviess County who have achieved the highest level of success in their field. I want to congratulate Jeff Chandler, Kenneth Davis, Kerry Everly, Terry Mayfield, Stephen McCain, Donnie Richeson, Barry Swift, Bobby Waltrip, and Todd Wilkerson for their hard work and excellent performances.

They're part of one of the fastest growing sports today. It's estimated that attendance records will double, with 6 million fans expected to go to the races this year.

These are all men of excellent character, who've demonstrated what can be accomplished with hard work and dedication. I join all Kentuckians in congratulating not only them, but their families, who have stood by and supported these racers and pit crew members over the years. I couldn't be more proud of their achievements, and I wish them continued success in the future.

#### THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, November 15, the Federal debt stood at \$4,988,340,050,374.57. We are still about \$12 billion away from the \$5 trillion mark. Unfortunately, we anticipate hitting this mark sometime later this year or early next year.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$18,935.82 as his or her share of that debt.