

Let me begin by telling you a story handed down to posterity by a teacher in the ghetto of Lodz.

A little boy, whose entire family had been deported, was dawdling in the street, talking loudly to himself. In one fist he clutched a handful of small stones.

First he dropped three small stones. They hit the ground with a faint sound, then two more, followed by another three. Then the little boy quickly closed his fist. In his lively eyes the shiny black pupils stopped racing for a moment. He said:

"Nine brothers like these stones we were once, all close together. Then came the first deportation and three of the brothers didn't return, two were shot at the barbed wire fence and three died of hunger. Can you guess how many brother-stones are still left in my hand?"

As all children do, this boy played games to help him understand the world around him. Only his world was a world of incomprehensible evil. Only his was the world of the Holocaust.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Holocaust was no accident of history. The systematic murder of the Jews did not happen by chance. Nor did the genocide of the Roma, the mass murder of disabled persons or the persecution and murder of homosexuals, dissidents and Jehovah's Witnesses.

It occurred because people willed it, planned it and carried it through. It occurred because people made choices which allowed it to happen. It occurred, not least, because people remained silent. As the 21st century dawns we must ask ourselves: Can we be sure that the societies we build on today do not house the very same mechanisms that made the Holocaust possible?

Dear friends, the answer is no. We cannot be sure. We have good reason to be fearful. Look around you. Today, well-organized Nazi groups form international networks where they help each other to recruit and train new members and learn how to exploit the weaknesses of democracies, how to use terror and frighten witnesses.

Nazis and revisionists make full and effective use of the new information technology to spread their lies, to sell white power music and to reach potential new members among young people in all parts of the world. Even today, Nazis march in our streets, persecute, assault and murder people because of their ethnic affiliation, sexual preferences or beliefs. The risk we face, is that anti-democratic forces continue to gain support. The danger lies in our failure to learn from history, in our failure to see the connections.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me use the words of a survivor, a well-known Swede, the late Professor Jerzy Eihorn, who passed away less than a week ago. At the Stockholm Forum on the Holocaust in January he said: "To remember the Holocaust is a fragile defence but still the best one against the development of Nazism in our countries—a reminder of Nazism's ruthless cruelty, a reminder that we must never lower our guard, never accept Nazism as a necessary evil within a democracy."

This was his message—a message for all of us. He wanted us to take it with us. Because then, he said: "our suffering has not been entirely in vain. Then we and all those that did not survive, will have contributed to a better world for coming generations." We have to take this message.

We must fight Nazism, racism, anti-semitism and xenophobia wherever and whenever they rear their ugly heads. We must fight them with the lessons of our past, but also with our visions for tomorrow. It will not be easy. But we have no other choice.

The future is not sealed by fate, no more than the bitter history of the past. It is our

actions today—the ones we take and the ones we fail to take—that will shape the future. It is you and I, all of us, united in determination to remember, that are the only guarantees we have against the recurrence of an evil past.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is good reason to be fearful, but surely also to feel hope. People want to know, people want to discuss values and ideas, people want to take responsibility and learn from history.

This is the encouraging conclusion we draw from the national project initiated by the Swedish Government in 1997—Living History. The idea was to spread knowledge about the Holocaust to young people in Sweden, but also to generate an active dialogue between generations on values in general.

To support parents, teachers and students in this task we launched a number of projects. One of these was a book entitled *Tell ye your children*. The response to the project in general and the book in particular exceeded anything we could have dreamed of. In every second Swedish home with school-children you will find a copy of the book. It was not just sent there. It was ordered by the families who wanted to have a base for the important discussion on democratic and humanistic values. I became convinced that this positive experience was not unique to Sweden.

In January 1998, I wrote to President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair suggesting international cooperation in this field. Little did I then know that only one year later, nine countries—in a network known as the Task Force—would cooperate with such countries as the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Argentina and several others in liaison projects designed to remembrance, education and research about the Holocaust.

As the new millennium dawned, and the very first international high-level conference was held, it didn't deal with economics. Nor did it deal with security and stability.

It dealt with fundamental values, with democracy and human dignity, with how to confront the better memories of a horrifying past in order to help shape better policies for tomorrow's world. It was the end of silence and the beginning of a new millennium.

Next year we will meet in Stockholm again. In response to an initiative of the Nobel Laureate Eli Weisel, the Swedish Government will host an annual international conference—a Stockholm Forum on Conscience and Humanity.

We have to conduct ourselves to the question of Elie Wiesel: "Will our past become our children's future?"

We have to learn from the words of another man who has devoted his life to teach about the Holocaust in order to prevent future genocides—professor Yehuda Bauer from Israel and the Yad Vashem Institute. He said:

"I come from a people who gave the ten commandments to the world. Time has come to strengthen them by three additional ones, which we ought to adopt and commit ourselves to: thou shall not be a perpetrator; thou shall not be a victim; and thou shall never, but never, be a bystander."

Ladies and Gentlemen, today we are gathered to remember.

Remember, because to forget would be to betray those irreplaceable people who died and those who survived. It would be to betray the deeds of Raoul Wallenberg and all the others who stood up for human dignity and risked their own lives to save the lives of others.

Remember, because to forget would be to betray every single child who comes into this world.

Let us therefore remember a little boy in the ghetto of Lodz, and through him all the

others who were forced to endure the unthinkable.

Let us pick up the brother-stones, clasp them firmly in our hands, and realise how much we will need them on our journey through a new century.

Let us carry them with us as a constant reminder and a challenge to never again allow forces to grow that are capable of such evil.

Thank you.

COCOA BEACH 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, seventy-five years ago this month a very special place in American history was founded. That special place is the town of Cocoa Beach, Florida.

We all know that America was created out of the spirit of frontierism. Bold men and women shook off the shackles of oppression and set forth to a new world of opportunity and adventure. Today we all know about Plymouth Rock and its significance in our nation's history.

America is still the land of frontier explorers and furthering the promise of freedom and adventure. I am proud to represent a town that has been the Plymouth Rock to the stars, Cocoa Beach.

Founded 75 years ago, what started out as a small, agrarian town enjoyed a pleasant, but sleepy existence. That solitude and quiet was interrupted with the introduction of the U.S. military's ballistic missile program after World War II.

Suddenly, Cocoa Beach became home for many rocket engineers, scientists and their families who came to Florida to help the United States win the Cold War. That work was only a small taste of the exciting future which was to come.

Soon the United States found that it was in our nation's military and economic national interests to have the capability to put people and objects into orbit. NASA was created and soon Cape Canaveral was selected to be the prime location for NASA's space launch activities. This resulted in Cocoa Beach's coming of age as a modern, thriving town on the cusp of a new age in human history.

Through Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, Skylab, Space Shuttle and International Space Station, Cocoa Beach has been there through it all. Its dynamic people striving to lead the next age of exploration into the new frontier.

Many feel that without frontiers and boundaries to push against, America stops being what America is all about. As long as we have cities like Cocoa Beach leading the charge into space, America's promise of freedom will continue into the stars.

JIM COLLINS: A HALF CENTURY OF JOURNALISM

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Jim Collins and his 50 years in journalism.

While Jim has been a journalist for a half century, his interest and employment in newspapers actually dates back to 1941, when he began his career as a News-Herald delivery boy. Jim wasn't even a teenager yet, and the paper cost 6 cents for twice-weekly delivery. Jim went on to graduate from Willoughby Union High School and Kent State University, and returned to the News-Herald after receiving his degree in June 1950. By then, Jim had shed the title of delivery boy and begun his career as a cub reporter.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly don't wish to draw undue attention to Jim's age, but I think it is worth noting other important milestones of 1950 so folks have some perspective about how long Jim has been a working journalist. The same year Jim became a reporter, Peanuts debuted, Alger Hiss was convicted, the first telephone answering machine was invented, Diner's Club became the first credit card, CBS began broadcasting in color, the first leak-proof ballpoint pen was introduced by PaperMate, Paul Harvey began broadcasting nationally on radio, and Silly Putty was introduced. Back then, it cost 3 cents to mail a letter, gas was 20 cents a gallon, and the average income was about \$3,200 a year. My guess is Jim made less than this, however, as journalists certainly don't enter the field for generous paychecks.

Jim stayed at the News-Herald until 1952, when he was drafted for a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army. After serving his country with honor, Jim returned to the field of journalism and eventually made it back to his home, the News-Herald. Jim has worked tirelessly since then and quickly ascended to the brass ring of newspaper management. He has been editor of the News-Herald since 1967, and has overseen its tremendous growth and development.

Over the last 50 years, Jim has received many prestigious awards for his writing, and his weekly column is a must-read for anyone who cares about what's happening in the news. He also is about the most prolific commentary writer you're likely to find, and has made his mark by offering common-sense solutions to state, local and national problems. As great as Jim's accomplishments are in journalism, however, they pale in comparison to what he has done for our local communities. As editor of the News-Herald, Jim has had a constant presence in the communities the paper covers, and has always been actively involved in civic and philanthropic activities. He is respected by all who know him.

Mr. Speaker, I feel honored to have known Jim Collins all the years I've been a public servant, and even a few before then. He is one of the most kind, fair, humble and caring men I've ever met. He is an exceptional journalist and an even better man. His word is his honor. On behalf of the 19th Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate Jim Collins on his 50 years in journalism, and wish him well as he continues to devote his life to the profession he loves so dearly.

AIR FORCE MEMORIAL EXTENSION ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Air Force Memorial Extension Act. In December of 1993 the President signed into law authorization for the Air Force Memorial Foundation to establish an Air Force Memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Air Force. This memorial was to comply with the provisions of the Commemorative Works Act.

Among other things, the Commemorative Works Act provides that the legislative authority for the commemorative work will expire at the end of the seven-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of such authority, unless a construction permit has been issued. To date, no construction permit has been issued. Due to unforeseen lawsuits, all work, including the fund raising for the memorial was put on hold for approximately 3 years. The lawsuits have been settled and work is ready to re-commence regarding the memorial. However, due to the delay and the 7-year requirement of the Commemorative Works Act, time is about to run out. In fact, the authority will expire on December 2 of this year unless Congress passes a time extension.

With considerable work already accomplished and the lawsuits settled the memorial needs to be completed. Thus, this bill would extend authority to the Air Force Memorial Foundation to complete the well-deserved memorial. The authority would extend until 2005 giving the Foundation the time to fulfill the final construction and dedication of the Air Force Memorial.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Consumer Product Safety Commission Enhanced Enforcement Act of 2000", a bill intended to improve consumer safety by increasing compliance with existing requirements to report hazards when they are known. The legislation would increase the civil and criminal penalties that the CPSC can impose upon firms that do not inform the Commission when they have sold a product that could pose a substantial hazard to consumers. The legislation would also help make some product recalls more effective.

The CPSC is the government agency that makes sure cribs, toys, and other products in your home are safe, and recalls them when they're not. The CPSC oversees the safety of 15,000 different kinds of consumer products. Each year there are more than 29 million injuries and about 22,000 deaths related to consumer products.

Current law provides that if companies have information that one of their products could

have a serious safety defect, they are required to report that to the government. Unfortunately, some companies are not obeying the law. The CPSC estimates that in half of the most serious cases they deal with, the company has failed to report injuries. Instead, the information comes to the attention of the agency from its own investigators, from consumers, or tragically, from hospital emergency room reports or death certificates.

When companies don't report, dangerous products that could have been recalled or modified remain on store shelves. They continue to be sold and they stay in consumers' homes where they can cause serious injury.

Some consumers pay a very high price for a company's failure to report.

For example, a 3-year-old girl died while playing on her swing. Her grandfather was cutting weeds in the yard using a weed trimmer with a replacement head that was made with a metal chain. The end link broke off the chain and it flew through the air as if it were a piece of deadly shrapnel—travelling 240 miles an hour. It hit his granddaughter in the temple, penetrated her skull and killed her.

The company didn't tell the CPSC about this death, nor did they tell the CPSC about the 40 other serious injuries from chains breaking. The CPSC was forced to do its own investigation and recalled the product nationwide in May.

Such failures to report result in tragic losses of life and limb that are avoidable and preventable if compliance with reporting were higher.

Under current law, the CPSC can fine companies for violating the law, but the amount of the fine is limited by statute to a level that does not sufficiently deter violations. Under current law, companies can face criminal penalties for violating consumer product safety laws, but they are only misdemeanors. Under current law, in any recall, companies provide a repair, replacement or refund for defective products. In most cases, the CPSC can find a good solution to the problem for consumers. But in rare cases where the product is older and has been on the market for many years, the company sometimes elects a refund that is much too small to even catch consumers' attention, so the dangerous product stays on the market.

To remedy these deficiencies, the legislation would: Eliminate the cap on civil penalties for violations of product safety laws.

Under current law, the CPSC cannot assess more than \$1,650,000 for a related series of violations against a company that knowingly violates consumer product safety laws. The legislation would eliminate this maximum civil penalty. Many of the cases in which the Commission seeks civil penalties involve very large corporations that can easily absorb a \$1.65 million fine. More substantial civil penalties would provide a needed incentive for those companies to notify CPSC of defective products so that the agency can take timely action to protect consumers. Other agencies have civil penalty authority with no "cap" on the amount of the penalty for a related series of violations, including the Federal Trade Commission.

Increase the penalty for a "knowing and willful" criminal violation of product safety laws from a misdemeanor to a felony and eliminate the requirement that the agency give notice to the company that is criminally violating the law.