

faith done for me that is most important, I say that yes it's been there for me in tough times and struggle, but I think it's also made me an optimistic person. It's made me a person who believes that there can be a better tomorrow.

If you don't believe that faith plays its role in making you an optimistic person, think of the people who built this country and the optimism that must have come from their faith. Have you ever wondered what it must have been like to come across the Continental Divide without roads? They must have had faith that they were going to make it. They must have had optimism about what was possible on the other side. They must have gone together and indeed from that they built a great country. Have you ever wondered about the faith and optimism of my ancestors, slaves who were three-fifths of a man who endured the most awful hardships of day-to-day life and yet somehow looked optimistically to a future? They must have done it out of the strength of their faith. They must have done it out of the optimism that only faith can give.

But imparting that optimism to people who are in need, imparting the mysteries and the lessons of faith to people who are in struggle is sometimes, oddly enough, easier than imparting and using the lessons of faith in everyday life. Sometimes we mobilize to use our faith when things are tough. This city mobilized around Columbine. People are able to bring themselves to love one another—Greeks and Turks after the earthquake in Turkey, because you're mobilized in your faith to help. But what about day to day in your interactions with people in the community? Can you mobilize your faith in the same way?

I think sometimes the biggest impediment to mobilizing our faith in our day to day interactions in trying to make our communities better is really in our lack of humility about what we as mere human beings can bring to the table. You know sometimes people of faith are wonderful at dealing with people in need. But in more normal times we're our own worst enemy because sometimes the shouting, the desire to lecture, overwhelms the desire to listen, overwhelms the desire to listen and to understand. I think sometimes that the greatest impediment to people of faith in really making a difference in their communities to people on a daily basis—not just when we need to be mobilized—is that we sometimes have trouble, as people of faith, meeting people where they are, not where we would like them to be.

And hereto, I draw on a lesson from Christ. Have you ever noticed that when Christ was interacting with people, He found a way to meet them where they were? With the rich young leader, it was confrontational—to give up everything and to give it to the poor was pretty confrontational. With Lazarus and the sisters, it was dramatic—a miracle. With the woman at the well, it was kind and understanding and quiet. How many of us as people of faith have that entire repertoire at our disposal? When we deal with people, do we ever stop shouting so loud that they can hear through us the still, small voice of calm, remembering after all that we will not personally work miracles in people's lives? That is the work of God. But if we are to be a conduit, we have to be a conduit that is willing to listen, a conduit that is willing to help with humility, and a conduit that is willing to meet people where they are.

Those I think are the lessons of faith—to hone our personal faith, to practice it every day, to pray for our leaders and for those who must carry the heavy burdens, and to try to use our faith and its lessons, not just when we need to be mobilized, but in our ev-

eryday interactions. Because only then can people of faith really make a difference in communities at home and communities abroad.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.●

MR. LLOYD A. SEMPLE RECEIVES 2000 JUDGE LEARNED HAND AWARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, each year, the American Jewish Committee's Metropolitan Detroit Chapter presents one individual with its Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award. Recipients of this award are honored for their outstanding leadership within the legal profession, and for exemplifying the high principles for which Judge Learned Hand was renowned. I rise today to recognize Mr. Lloyd A. Semple, who will receive the 2000 Judge Learned Hand Award on June 29, 2000, in Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Semple is the Chairman of one of Detroit's oldest and most prestigious law firms, Dykema Gossett, PLLC. Founded in 1926, Dykema Gossett provides legal services to a broad range of clients, from international and Fortune 500 companies to individuals and small "Mom and Pop" businesses. Its mission has remained constant throughout its almost seventy-five years: to provide the best possible legal advice and service to its clients. The firm has grown over 270 lawyers strong, and now has locations in the following Michigan cities: Ann Arbor, Bloomfield Hills, Grand Rapids, and Lansing; as well as offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C. In addition, Dykema Gossett has recently gone global, forming an affiliation with a firm in Bologna, Italy.

In his time as Chairman, Mr. Semple has overseen this growth and adaptation to the "new economy" while at the same time stressing the importance of pro bono work to the members and associates of Dykema Gossett. Twice in recent years the law firm has been recognized by the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association for its efforts in this regard. In 1998, Dykema Gossett was selected by the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association as the firm that made the most outstanding pro bono contribution in the United States in transactional and business related areas. In addition, members and associates donate their time and resources to a host of charitable and civic organizations, recognizing the importance of being not only a community member, but a community leader. Much of this is attributable, I think, to the strong leadership of Mr. Semple, and his belief that a good business should also strive to be a good neighbor.

Mr. Semple himself practices general corporate law, including acquisitions, divestitures, mergers and financings. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University, and his Jurist Doctorate from the University of Michigan. He is a member of the De-

troit Metropolitan Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the State Bar of Michigan. He is a Director and/or Officer of Interface Systems, Inc., Sensys Technologies Inc., Tracy Industries, Inc., and Civix, Inc.

In addition, Mr. Semple serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Detroit Medical Center; Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Detroit Zoological Society; and is a Trustee of Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall. He is the Director and Corporate Secretary, as well as a Trustee, of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center, an organization which raises funds for the awareness and prevention of breast cancer. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Harper Hospital, Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, President of the Yale Alumni Association of Michigan and President of the Country Club of Detroit.

I applaud Mr. Semple on his many achievements within the realm of the law, and his many charitable endeavors outside of that realm. Not only the City of Detroit, but the entire State of Michigan, has benefitted from his many great works. On behalf of the United States Senate, I congratulate Mr. Lloyd A. Semple on receiving the 2000 Judge Learned Hand Award, and wish him continued success in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:47 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 809. An act to amend the Act of June 1, 1948, to provide for reform of the Federal Protective Service.

H.R. 1959. An act to designate the Federal building located at 743 East Durango Boulevard in San Antonio, Texas, as the "Adrian A. Spears Judicial Training Center."

H.R. 3323. An act to designate the Federal building located at 158-15 Liberty Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, New York, as the "Floyd H. Flake Federal Building."

H.R. 4608. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 220 West Depot Street in Greeneville, Tennessee, as the "James H. Quillen United States Courthouse."

H.R. 4762. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require 527 organizations to disclose their political activities.