

The Germans considered all Poles to be an inferior race. After Poland was conquered, German authorities expelled much of the native Polish population from regions of the newly annexed territories. Polish cities were given German names and German settlers were colonized on Polish land. In occupied Poland, the Nazi governor, Hans Frank, proclaimed: "Poles will become slaves in the German Reich."

The Nazis set out to destroy Polish culture. Thousands of Polish teachers, politicians, university professors, and artists were executed or sent to Nazi concentration camps. Catholic priests were among the main targets of Nazi mass murder in Poland.

In fact, Auschwitz was created as an internment camp for Polish dissidents. And thousands of Poles were murdered alongside the Jews in Auschwitz.

Many Poles risked their lives to save Jews:

Irena Sendler was a young social worker in Warsaw. She used her position to smuggle 200 Jewish children out of the ghetto to safe houses. In 1943, Sendler was arrested by the gestapo, brutally tortured and condemned to death. On the day of her execution, she was freed with the help of the Jewish underground.

Irena Adamowicz, a Polish Catholic, aided in establishing contacts between the Jewish Underground and the main Polish resistance organization.

Jan Karksi, who, while working for the Polish Government in exile, was one of the few outsiders to visit the Warsaw Ghetto. He appealed to the allies to do something.

These are just a few examples. But as a Polish-American, it pains me to know that these brave patriots were a minority. The majority of Poles, like the majority of Europeans, were neither killers nor victims. Most merely stood by, neither collaborating, nor coming to the aid of the victims. This passivity amounted to acquiescence.

Eli Weisel, a survivor of Auschwitz, visited Auschwitz 25 years after the liberation. He wrote:

I hadn't realized how near the village was. I had thought of it as worlds distant from the camp. But the villagers could see what was happening behind the barbed wire, could hear the music as the labor details trudged to work and back again. How did they manage to sleep at night? How could they go to mass on Sunday, attend weddings, laugh with their children, while a few paces away human beings despaired of the human race.

Many years later, Eli Weisel was awarded the Nobel Prize. This week he led the American delegation to Auschwitz.

As a Polish-American, I traveled to Poland in the late 1970's. I was a Congresswoman. And I wanted to see my heritage. I went to the small village where my family came from. It was a very moving and historic experience.

But I also wanted to see the dark side of my history, and I went to Auschwitz.

In touring Auschwitz, it was an incredibly moving experience to go through the gate, to see the sign, to go

to see the chambers. I went to a cell that had been occupied by Father Kolbe, a Catholic priest, who gave his life for a Jewish man there.

And then, for those of you who don't know, I'm a social worker, I've been a child abuse worker and I don't flinch.

But then I got half way through that tour and I came to a point in that tour where I saw the bins with glasses and the children's shoes, and this 40-something year old Congresswoman could not go on.

I became unglued. I had to remove myself from the small tour, go off into a private place in Auschwitz, cry in a way that shook my very soul. And when I left there, I thought, now I really know why we need an Israel.

And that is why I will fight so hard to ensure the survival of Israel. I know its importance. I know why it exists.

I also know why it is so important for us educate our young people—about the effects of hatred, about the importance of history.

Several years ago, I helped my friend Mark Talisman to create a living memorial to the Jews of Poland—called Project Judaica. Through its cultural center, its international education programs, and its rescue of Jewish artifacts, Project Judaica seeks to educate people about the rich history of the Polish Jews. Project Judaica's Center for Jewish History and Culture is in Krakow, near the village my family is from.

In closing, I would like to read the words of Eli Weisel:

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky. Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God himself.

Mr. President, 50 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, let us pledge never to forget. And let us honor those who died in the holocaust by fighting against bigotry, hate crimes, and intolerance.

U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. CARL A. CLEMENT A NEW HAMPSHIRE HERO

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to salute U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Carl A. Clement, from Sunapee, NH, who died January 10, 1995, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident while serving his country in South Korea.

The accident that took the life of this fine young man was a terrible tragedy for his family and for the State of New Hampshire. Carl was born in Newport, NH. He is the son of Charles

and Mary Clement and graduated from Sunapee High School in 1983, where he received the outstanding athlete award. Carl was married to Sandra Clement, of Lawton, OK. They have two daughters, Jacqueline Amalia and Pamela Megan Clement.

Carl joined the Army on July 5, 1983, and he was stationed at Fort Sill in OK, prior to his tour of duty in Korea. He left for Korea in March 1994 where he served as a generator mechanic. The Clement family can be proud of Carl and his service to the United States. Carl was an outstanding soldier, devoted family man, and trusted friend.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I am honored to have represented Staff Sgt. Clement and his family in the U.S. Senate. Sergeant Carl Clement joins a distinguished list of New Hampshire patriots who have given their lives in the service of their country.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE?— THE VOTERS SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business on Thursday, January 26, the Federal debt stood at \$4,801,405,175,294.28 meaning that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,226.22 as his or her share of that debt.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached Las Vegas Sun article by Nevada's former Governor Mike O'Callaghan on President Clinton's proposal to raise the minimum wage be printed in the RECORD.

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

STOP WHINING; PAY WORKERS

Whine, whine, whine.

The sky is going to fall in if the minimum wage is raised. If you listen to the Republican-led whine choir, it assures us that small businesses will collapse and thousands of teenage hamburger flippers will be fired if the minimum wage rises from \$4.25 to \$5 an hour.

Let's be honest, any business today that doesn't have the ability to pay its workers \$5 an hour probably should collapse if it hasn't already. You can't convince a thinking American that the newly suggested minimum wage will do anything but help the working poor and, in the long run, improve the economy. A quick glance at past minimum wage increases will show that they have been a plus, not a negative, for the working poor and the economy.

I was proud of President Bill Clinton when he said in his State of the Union address:

"Members of Congress have been here less than a month; 28 days into the new year, every member of Congress will have earned as much in congressional salary as a minimum-wage worker makes all year long."

Earlier, he had pointed out that there are "2½ million Americans, often women with children," who now work for \$4.25 an hour.

Figure it out: These people, when employed full time, make \$170 a week and less than \$9,000 a year.

Try raising a family on these wages, when the poverty level for a family of four is \$13,000 a year. In case the family breadwinner gets sick working for minimum wages, he or she most likely hasn't any medical coverage. The situation becomes a double tragedy.

Furthermore, the idea that only teenage fast-food workers are paid the minimum wage is wrong. Actually only about 30 percent of these workers are under 20. A much larger percentage is 25 years old and up. Yes, and 60 percent of the people struggling to get by on minimum wage are women. Many of them are single parents.

As a governor, I heard all of the silly arguments against raising the minimum wage during the 1970s. Sometimes, it was like pulling teeth for Assemblywoman Eileen Brookman and state executives Stan Jones and Blackie Evans to convince legislators to move ahead with minimum-wage legislation.

Who are these hard-working Americans who labor for \$4.25 an hour? According to writer Michael Gartner, the households with less than \$10,000-a-year income give a greater percentage of their money to charity than do those who make \$75,000-\$100,000 annually. They aren't a bunch of bums or freeloaders. They are men and women we should be proud of as fellow Americans who toil at jobs day after day to feed themselves and their families.

I remember my father working for a dollar a day during the Great Depression. Cutting and skinning trees for pulp from dawn to dark wasn't an easy task. Following that bit of exercise in the snowy and cold climate of Wisconsin, he came home to milk the cows and then go to bed, knowing that hours before the sun rose the next day, he had to milk them again before leaving for the woods.

Let the editors of USA Today give us a brief history of the minimum wage and bring us up to date:

"The first minimum wage law set a 25-cent-an-hour wage in 1938 in order to provide a minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being for workers."

"And for most of the next four decades, the minimum wage provided that floor to earnings, as Congress raised it a dozen times—once every three or four years—to keep up with inflation.

"But then came the Reagan revolution. From 1979 to 1989, the wage was stuck at \$3.35 an hour, losing nearly half of its purchasing power.

"The result: A wider gulf between rich and poor and an increasing reliance of working families on food stamps, tax credits and other welfare to make ends meet.

"The 90-cent increase implemented from 1989 to 1991 helped lift nearly 200,000 families from that situation, the Labor Department found. But it still left 18 percent of full-time workers earning less than poverty wages for a family of four—a whopping 50 percent increase from 1979."

So stop the predictions of economic catastrophes and the whining that accompanies the voices against the minimum wage going to \$5. It's long overdue, and anything less will only allow the continuation of one of our country's greatest injustices against the working poor.

THE WAR IN CHECHNYA

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, last week, Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared victory in Chechnya, stating

that the military stage of the conflict had concluded. It is clear, however, that neither the conflict nor its political and international ramifications are behind us. The fighting, although less intense, continues with horrifying reports of attacks against civilians. Russia's foray into Chechnya, moreover, continues to take a toll on Russia's domestic reform agenda as well as its relationships with the West.

Secretary Christopher put it well last week after his meetings in Geneva with Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev. He said: "I told the Foreign Minister that the United States fully supports the principle of Russia's territorial integrity, but that we are extremely concerned about the price that the war is exacting in terms of human life, in terms of support of reform, and in terms of Russia's standing in the world." To my mind, Secretary Christopher delivered the right message. Let us hope that Russia responds appropriately.

Mr. President, I believe that few of us would deny that territorial integrity is an important principle that must be preserved. There are 32 ethnic federal units in Russia—consisting of 21 sovereign republics and 11 autonomous regions. These areas make up about one-third of Russia's land mass. Much of that territory is resource-rich and politically important. If Russia had taken a laissez-faire attitude toward Chechnya, it is conceivable that other republics and regions would have followed suit by attempting violent breakaways—breeding instability and bloodshed throughout the region. An unstable Russia is clearly not in the United States interest.

I do believe that Russia has a right to preserve its borders consistent with the principles laid out by the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The OSCE—formerly the CSCE—makes clear that Europe's borders are not to be changed by force. That being said, Russia can't have it both ways. If we are going to look to OSCE to argue that Russia's territorial integrity should be preserved, we also have to take seriously OSCE commitments and principles regarding human rights. As a member of OSCE, Russia has committed to observing certain standards of behavior. Most recently, at the OSCE summit in Budapest, OSCE members adopted a code of conduct that spells out principles guiding the role of armed forces in democratic societies. The Russian military's behavior in Chechnya raises serious questions about Russia's commitment to OSCE principles.

It is not too late for Russia to seek a peaceful end to the Chechnya conflict. In fact, an OSCE team is scheduled to visit Chechnya to focus on human rights, treatment of prisoners, humanitarian aid, and election preparation. Moscow should welcome this as an opening to show good faith and follow through on President Yeltsin's pledge of "rehabilitating the life-support sys-

tem and of protecting human rights to the full extent."

While I want to see the United States continue to engage Russia and to support the reform effort, there are many voices here in the Congress calling for a reevaluation of our relationship, including our assistance program. In my view, United States bilateral assistance—the vast majority of which is in the form of technical assistance to farmers, teachers, business representatives, and other ordinary Russians—is crucial to bolstering the reformers.

By far the most important type of assistance, however, is the aid we provide under the Nunn-Lugar program to help Russia and the other nuclear powers of the former Soviet Union with dismantlement and conversion. It is a wise investment in our own security, and to create linkages between Chechnya and the Nunn-Lugar program would be the height of irresponsibility. As I said, however, not everyone shares this view, and I am afraid that if Russia does not opt for a peaceful solution to the Chechnya conflict, the march to end assistance will be unstoppable.

ANNIVERSARY OF AUSCHWITZ LIBERATION

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, 50 years ago tomorrow troops of the soviet red army marched into almost unimaginable horror in Auschwitz, Poland. In the 50 years since its liberation, Auschwitz has become a synonym for man's inhumanity to man. Roughly 1 million Jews were murdered at Auschwitz, part of Hitler's twisted final solution. Some 75,000 Poles and some 23,000 gypsies were killed. It is hard to envision the scope of this holocaust—the barbaric efficiency of the Nazi killing machine is typified by the Auschwitz camp.

The importance of remembering Auschwitz should be clear to this and future generations—even today there are those who deny reality and distort history by claiming to doubt the reality of the Nazi Holocaust. Their lies only highlight the need to reflect on the meaning of the Holocaust on this important anniversary.

In the last few days leading up to tomorrow's anniversary, newspapers and television have had powerful and moving accounts of life and death at Auschwitz. One has only to see the pictures and hear the anguished voices of the survivors to understand the phrase: "never again." The horror of the death camps should lead each and every one of us to say "never again." Never again will the world tolerate mass murder as a tool of state policy. Never again will the world tolerate the organized government effort to eradicate one group of people based on their religion or ethnic origin.

TRIBUTE TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to salute the Senate