

Martin Luther King, Jr., drew on this tradition. He was, of course, the Reverend Martin Luther King—a religious minister. His crusade for racial justice and equality of opportunity drew explicitly on references to God and God's will.

Reverend King called for racial equality, not because some mere philosophical, academic principle demanded it, but because God demands that we treat one another with respect, according to the content of our character and not the color of our skin. In this way he showed Americans their duty toward one another, and brought us together in pursuit of a just equality of opportunity.

Today, however, conservative people of faith are attacked as intolerant extremists for having the temerity to make demands on our conscience. Mr. McCurry's statement is only the latest in such regard. Peaceful pro-life protesters are condemned as religious bigots for opposing what they feel is a great moral crime. The Christian Coalition and other similar groups are often depicted as a dark force whose participation in the political process is somehow inappropriate.

Mr. President, we must reject this kind of antireligious bigotry in whatever form it takes. After all, should Martin Luther King have been dismissed as an intolerant religious fanatic?

I certainly hope not, for that would have denied our country his moral force, which contributed mightily to the civil rights movement's success. Yet Mr. McCurry's apparent disdain for the involvement of people of faith in the political process would surely have kept Reverend King out of politics, unless, of course, such intolerance only applies to conservative people of faith.

I also am concerned about Mr. McCurry's comments because, frankly, I believe that it perpetuates in American public life the stereotype that anyone connected to the Arab world must be an extremist.

As an American of Lebanese descent, I take great exception to Mr. McCurry's use of his White House podium in this fashion. I believe it is inappropriate to employ ethnic-based references or comparisons as a means of insulting or demeaning others.

Arab-Americans have worked hard to assimilate and succeed in America. According to the 1990 census, 82 percent of Arab-Americans graduated from high school, while more than half, 52 percent had at least a college degree and a full 15 percent held some form of graduate degree. Furthermore 36.4 percent, more than one-third, of Arab-Americans are represented in managerial positions or the professions.

However, it is difficult for any ethnic group to enjoy full acceptance and assimilation if they remain targets of scorn or if people of their heritage are employed as negative symbols. Whenever someone is insulted for being "stupid" or "lazy" or "fanatical"—

"just like" people of a certain ethnic group—we reinforce the notion that all the members of the ethnic group so referenced are a people who are stupid or lazy or fanatic. The result is ethnic division, bad feelings and unfounded prejudice.

That is what Mr. McCurry's statement does. Moreover, invoking as it does the prestige of the White House inevitably will heighten anti-Arab feelings in this country and place an unfair burden on people who are hard-working, loyal, tax paying citizens.

Finally, I am concerned about Mr. McCurry's statement because it seems clear to me that a Presidential Press Secretary, whose salary is paid for by the taxpayers, should not engage in such blatantly partisan activity.

I am not here supporting Pat Buchanan's run for the Presidency. But in my view Mr. McCurry stepped over an important line when he attacked Mr. Buchanan in the way he did. The American people are not paying Mr. McCurry so that he can make insensitive stereotyping statements intended, among other things, to help his boss' chances in the next election.

The President has many avenues available to him if he wishes to make campaign statements. He also has the option of going through the steps necessary to make an open bid for reelection. Within this context it would be understandable that his campaign spokesman would make partisan statements.

But to have a public employee making such blatantly political attacks, capitalizing on the media access and prestige of the Presidency for purely political ends, is simply unacceptable.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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

SOUTH DAKOTA GRANITE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once called Mount Rushmore "the shrine of American democracy."

Because of his love of that shrine, it is especially fitting that, as we approach the 50th anniversary of FDR's death on April 12, the new memorial that is being built now in our Nation's Capital to honor President Roosevelt will be carved, like Mount Rushmore, out of South Dakota stone.

There is another reason that South Dakota rock is being used for the memorial. It is, as geologists will tell you, quite simply one of the most beautiful granites in the world.

It is called carnelian granite, named for the warm, mahogany color of the

rock. It has been quarried in Milbank, in the northeast corner of South Dakota, since 1908.

Because of its rich color and brilliant shine, Milbank granite has been used for public monuments in nearly every State and Canada. In Pierre, the capital of South Dakota, it was used in 1912 to build our statehouse. In Washington, it was used to build the National Catholic Shrine and the poignant memorial to the women who fought in the war in Vietnam.

The Roosevelt Monument, which will be completed in spring 1997, will use 135,000 square feet of Milbank granite. That is about as much granite as you would need to construct an 80-story building.

The memorial will depict 12 pivotal years in America's history through a series of four rooms, each devoted to one of FDR's four terms in office. The granite from my home State will form the walls of those rooms, into which will be carved President Roosevelt's own inspiring words. Among the bronze sculptures to inhabit the rooms will be a statue of Eleanor Roosevelt, a champion of women's rights, who had a profound effect on FDR and on this Nation.

Like Theodore Roosevelt before him, Franklin Roosevelt was always a little awe-struck by the stark beauty of the American West, and particularly South Dakota. In 1944, he suggested that the United Nations be located in the Black Hills of South Dakota so that world leaders might ponder the profound solitude and the magnificence of the Earth as they faced tough issues.

South Dakota is a land of awe-inspiring geological resources: the Black Hills, the Badlands, vast caves and glacial deposits, and of course, the 2½ billion-year-old Milbank granite.

Among the oldest rocks in the world, the South Dakota granite will produce a tribute of geological, almost infinite, duration to an extraordinary President who led this Nation through the depths of the Depression and the horrors of the Second World War to a far better place.

In 1936 when FDR came to Mount Rushmore to preside at the dedication of Jefferson's likeness, he said "we can mediate and wonder what our descendants will think about us 10,000 years from now when they see this mountain."

We in South Dakota are proud that future generations will gaze upon the rock of South Dakota when they reflect on the lasting contributions to American society of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

It is especially appropriate that we honor President Roosevelt now.

There are people in Washington who truly hope and aspire to the great things that President Roosevelt had wanted and to which he dedicated his life. But the fundamental ideals in which President Roosevelt believed—fairness, genuine opportunity for all Americans—go beyond Democratic and

Republican politics. They go beyond the fights that we may have on the floor of the Senate as late as this afternoon. Those beliefs, those strong feelings about the directions this country should take, are every bit as enduring as the hard South Dakota granite. And, like that granite, they will endure long after we are gone.

PRIORITIES AND DEFICIT REDUCTION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, relating to the debate that we began this morning, let me say that I hope we can renew our debate about priorities as we approach the last week of this particular session before the Easter recess.

It was a debate about priorities and a debate about the need for deficit reduction and a debate about how we get there.

An amendment that I offered today achieves exactly the same level of deficit reduction as the level proposed in the committee-reported rescissions bill, but it does so without damaging our children's educational and health care needs.

What the amendment was designed to do, without adding one penny to the deficit, in a way that was completely paid for, was to create a better balance between the requirements laid out in the original rescissions package and the objectives that we all have with regard to distributing the burden of deficit reduction fairly. On the list of priorities we say we all share, education is high. But certainly that was not reflected to the degree that it should be if, indeed, our priorities are as we say they are.

We all had hoped we could have a good debate this afternoon with regard to those priorities, with regard to our Nation's values, the values of families, but we were not given that opportunity, and for that I am very deeply disappointed.

The majority leader, as is his right, offered a second-degree amendment that really does not address this issue of education and the needs of working families. Obviously, there are many ways in which to continue to work at meaningful deficit reduction, but that really was not the sole purpose of the amendment on our side.

What we were attempting to say is that you can have good and constructive debate about how we ought to reduce the deficit, and that part of that debate ought to be about the values and the tremendous priorities that we have invested in in the past, with regard to education and children.

We wanted to call upon the Senate to reconsider how we treat working families with children. The response, unfortunately, that we received was a proposal to gut our amendment and have the bill pulled entirely.

I do not know what the other side may be afraid of here, but it seems to me that support for our amendment is very loud and very clear. The support,

again announced on the west side of the Capitol this morning in very clear terms, was that we ought to recognize that we have priorities that stand not as mutually exclusive but clearly in tandem—meaningful deficit reduction at the same time we have meaningful investments in the priorities that this country ought to insist upon.

Since we stood up for working families of 1 million children, telephones have been ringing off the hook in the Senate offices across the Capitol. Our amendment is building support because it addresses the need to reduce the deficit at the same time it restores funds that are needed for working families.

If this amendment is not adopted, America's children will pay the price in terms of their education, their housing, their health care, and their child care. We need to invest in our future, and our amendment says going after children's programs first is wrong.

We also need to ensure that we properly fund the Federal Emergency Management Administration so that we meet emergency needs caused by recent natural disasters. Our amendment does that. It is also completely paid for. It restores the \$1.3 billion simply by taking what is viewed as excessive funding for FEMA in the years beyond 1996 and dedicating that money, as it should be dedicated, to the investment in children.

The total rescission under this substitute is identical to the level in the pending Senate bill—\$15.1 billion, including the money allocated to the Shelby amendment.

The substitute provides FEMA with exactly the same level of funding as the House bill—\$5.36 billion.

If our colleagues dispute the level of funding in our amendment, they are also disputing the Republican leadership in the other body, because the figure is identical on both sides of the Capitol.

One million children should not be left out or ignored as we continue the duel on priorities that we have here—priorities that recognize their interests, future needs, and their interest in inheriting a country that is not as deficit-laden as it is today.

So we can do both. I hope that as we work through this rescissions bill, and certainly through the budget priorities we will be debating as we consider a budget resolution later on, we can recognize the need to do both in a meaningful and bipartisan way. That is what this amendment attempts to do. That is what I hope the Senate will do. That is what I hope we have the opportunity to do next week.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of business yesterday, Thursday, March 30, the Federal debt stood at \$4,852,914,736,954.80. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,421.75 as his or her share of that debt.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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.)

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-73. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho; to the Committee on Finance.

“HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1

“Whereas, the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision in the case of ‘National Bellas Hess, Inc. v. Dept. of Revenue,’ (386 U.S. 753 (1967)) denies states the authority to require the collection of sales and use taxes by out-of-state mail order firms that have no physical presence in the taxing state, even though they solicit and obtain significant sales there through the mail and common carriers; and

“Whereas, in its 1992 decision in ‘Quill Corp. v. North Dakota,’ (U.S.S.C. Doc. No. 91-194), the United States Supreme Court clearly indicated that the Congress of the United States can, consistent with the U.S. Constitution, enact legislation authorizing direct marketers to collect state and local use taxes; and

“Whereas, the inability of states like Idaho to require certain direct marketers and other businesses not physically present, but selling to their residents, to collect sales and use tax places many community businesses that support state and local governments at a substantial competitive disadvantage; and

“Whereas, restrictions on collecting such taxes result in a loss of billions of dollars nationally and millions of dollars in Idaho of legally due sales and use tax revenue; and

“Whereas, according to a recent report released by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, the revenue potential to all states from untaxed interstate mail order sales is projected to be \$4.57 billion in 1994 and that the loss of tax revenue to the State of Idaho in the same report is estimated to be \$13.4 million; and

“Whereas, organizations representing local retailers, state and local officials and public service recipient groups are working to achieve enactment of federal legislation that would authorize states to require direct marketers to collect state sales and use taxes; and

“Whereas, in the two decades since the ‘National Bellas Hess’ decision, improvements in communications technology and transportation distribution systems have changed the nature and extent of interstate sales and the recent and projected rapid