

societies. To be sure, Armenians themselves are committed to the proposition that their experience has meaning for all of us—it must not remain the special province of the survivors. In other words, to ignore or forget the past is to remain its captive, and coming to terms with the past is an indispensable part of building for the future.

Elie Wiesel, speaking at a Holocaust memorial service here in the Congress during the early 1980's, expressed eloquently the importance of recognizing the Armenian genocide when he said:

Before the planning of the final solution, Hitler asked, "Who remembers the Armenians?" He was right. No one remembered them, as no one remembered the Jews. Rejected by everyone, they felt expelled from history.

From the darkness of this experience, Armenians have risen to demonstrate great courage and strength in their pursuit of human dignity and freedom. After enduring years of struggle under Soviet rule the Armenians gained independence at last. They now face the effects of a devastating earthquake in 1988, an inhumane economic blockade which continues to hamper the delivery of needed humanitarian assistance, and the hostile forces arrayed against them in their volatile area of the world.

Perhaps the Armenian-American community is one of the best examples of this indomitable human spirit of the Armenian people. The contribution of the Armenian community to the cultural, social, economic, and political life of America is a source of great strength and vitality in our Nation. Americans of Armenian origin have kept alive, and not let tragedy shatter, the rich faith and traditions of Armenian civilization.

Mr. President, in keeping with our country's highest principles and ideals, we pause and pay tribute today to the survivors and the victims who perished in the midst of a deliberate attempt to rid the world of the entire nation. As we recall the events that began on the night of April 24, 1915, we are reminded yet again of the fundamental importance of freedom and respect for human rights, and of the terrible consequences of their abuse.

I ask unanimous consent that a recent column appearing in the New York Times entitled "For Old Armenians, April is the Cruellest Memory" be printed in the RECORD at this point.

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

[From the New York Times, Apr. 19, 1995]

FOR OLD ARMENIANS, APRIL IS THE CRUELEST MEMORY

(By Michael T. Kaufman)

The forsythia at the Armenian Home in Flushing are blooming cheerily and the dandelions wink from the lawn, but for the old people who live there, April remains a time of heavy sorrows. They sit silently in sunny rooms, keeping to themselves what they saw and heard and smelled 80 years ago when their people were scattered and killed in the first of the century's many genocides.

"We don't talk to each other about it because everybody has their own terrible stories," said Alice Dossdourian, who is 89 years old. They also no longer go to the commemorative gatherings, such as the one to be held this Sunday in Times Square, where younger people mark the years of Armenian agony that began when the Turks killed 235 intellectuals on April 24, 1915. The home's administrators say the memorials were too upsetting for the residents.

"But I never forget," Mrs. Dossdourian said. "I think about what happened all the time. Sometimes I dream about it and I wake up and I hold myself and tell myself, 'No, you do not have to worry, now you are in America.'" Mrs. Dossdourian has been in America since 1924.

But if the old Armenians discreetly avoided making each other cry, they eagerly took advantage of a stranger's visit to tell what they had seen and endured as children. They are, after all, among the last ones alive who had seen the horrors with their own eyes. They need to reveal their recollections to those who were not there, not to seek redress or make politics, but simply to have the facts acknowledged. And so, one after another, the Armenians clasped a stranger's arm and testified.

Mrs. Dossdourian had been born in Mazhdvan, a village in that part of Turkey where the Armenians had lived for many centuries. She was 6 years old in 1915 when soldiers came and took away her father, a shoemaker. She never saw him again. "My mother took me and my brother, who was 12, and we walked. We went from village to village. We went to the mountains. I do not know how many months we walked. Once we were in a village where all the men were Armenian heroes, big men who fought until they died. But then the soldiers came and made us walk again."

There were more than a million who walked, mostly women, children and old men forced across Mesopotamian deserts into Syria. Many drowned and died of hunger. Some, like Mrs. Dossdourian's brother, were shot to death during the exodus. In all, the estimates of the dead ranged between 600,000 and 1.5 million. Until World War II and the destruction of the Jews, it was the sufferings of the Armenians, well documented by journalists and writers, that set standards of horror and contemporary barbarism.

"Every night," Mrs. Dossdourian said, "I heard people shouting that they were robbed by the gendarmes. We were always hungry. People were dying and we had no shovels to bury them. People stayed up at night to protect bodies from dogs and wild animals. People sang out to God, 'How could you let this happen to us?'" The woman spoke unhesitatingly, sitting erect and keeping her clear blue eyes on her listener.

"One day we came to a river. There were many dead around but in the water there was the body of a young woman floating. I could see her long black hair spread out like a beautiful fan." She shuddered and her clear blue eyes filled with tears.

Annahid Verdanian also remembers. She was 4 years old when she was forced from her home with her mother and her father. She and her nurse became separated from the others. At one river she watched as a ferry full of people was turned over. She thinks her family may have been on the boat and drowned. She was adopted by people, some good, some exploitative. She worked as a maid, as a seamstress. She went to Greece and then to Marseille, and then in 1934 she came to Massachusetts, where she worked in textile mills.

Hagop Cividian, who is 86, did not come here until 1990. In French and German he explains his story. With difficulty he talks

about a woman named Diana, saying it is important to remember her because she was a real hero. He has written her story but only in Armenian. "Americans should know," he said with passion. "She was an American." She was married to his cousin and they had a 7-year-old boy who was a prodigy on the piano. "The authorities told her that because she was American she could go but she would have to leave the boy," Mr. Cividian said. "She stayed and died with her husband and son."

Mr. Cividian managed to live. "For four years I was hungry, and beaten," said the stocky and still muscular man. Later he made his way to Romania, where he became a chemical engineer. "As a child I saw the Turks kill the Armenians, later I saw Hitler and then Ceaucescu," Mr. Cividian said. "The only time I knew freedom was when I came to America five years ago. Only here I can do what I want. I can think, speak and remember."

#### IS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the impression simply will not go away; the enormous Federal debt greatly resembles that well-known energizer bunny we see, and see, and see on television. The Federal debt keeps going and going and going—always at the expense, of course, of the American taxpayers.

A lot of politicians talk a good game—when they go home to campaign about bringing Federal deficits and the Federal debt under control. But so many of these same politicians regularly voted for one bloated spending bill after another during the 103d Congress, which could have been a primary factor in the new configuration of U.S. Senators as a result of last November's elections.

In any event, Mr. President, as of yesterday, as of Friday, April 21, at the close of business, the total Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at exactly \$4,837,382,183,299.27 or \$18,362.79 per person.

#### FATHER ROBERT J. FOX

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I am pleased to pay tribute to an outstanding South Dakotan and good friend, Father Robert J. Fox of Alexandria, SD. Today, April 24, 1995, marks the 40th year of his dedicated service to the Catholic church and the people of South Dakota.

It has been my personal pleasure to work with Father Robert over the past 6 years in establishing National Children's Day. As national chairman of National Children's Day activities for the Catholic church, he has tirelessly promoted this special day for our children. As a result of his efforts, I expect to see National Children's Day successfully celebrated on the second Sunday of October for many years to come.

Father Robert Fox began his pastoral career at the age of 27 after graduating from St. Paul Seminary school. A little over a year later, on April 24, 1955, he was ordained into the priesthood, and gave his first sermon soon afterward at

the Immaculate Conception Church in his hometown of Watertown, SD.

Over the years Father Robert has faithfully served the Catholic church in many different parishes across eastern South Dakota. He has been ministering in Alexandria since 1985. During his career Father Robert has authored 20 books and numerous articles in Catholic publications. He also has taken pilgrimages with 3,000 youth. Certainly, South Dakotans of all ages have benefited from his very active career of service.

I am just one of many South Dakotans who have profited from Father Robert's wisdom. His valuable advice will always be greatly appreciated. He is loved and respected by many. I am honored to join in observing this very special occasion for Father Robert.

#### THE DEATH OF JOHN F. BLAKE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the CIA, the Senate Intelligence Committee and our country lost a loyal servant on March 27 when Jack Blake passed away after a long illness. Jack was an OSS veteran who became one of the CIA's premier managers, serving as its director of logistics, Deputy Director for Administration and acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. He also served as president of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers.

In 1981, when Senator Barry Goldwater became the first Republican to chair the Select Committee on Intelligence, he chose Jack Blake to be staff director of the committee. Together, Senator Goldwater and Jack Blake established the principle that the transfer from a Democratic to a Republican majority would not mean an end to the Senate's bipartisan oversight of sensitive national security matters. They also made the point that the intelligence community's best friends were capable of examining its activities with a critical eye, for the sake of improving this vital function and safeguarding the liberties of our citizens.

Jack Blake went on to become a professor at the Defense Intelligence College and frequently brought his classes back to the Hill to meet with congressional overseers and see for themselves that we were not monsters, but people of good will. His tremendous good humor and perseverance served him and his country well. We will miss Jack Blake, but we will also continue to profit from his life of good works. The Senate was fortunate to have known him.

#### THE DEATH OF RICHARD E. CURL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, our Nation lost a valuable member of its national security team recently, when Richard E. Curl died at the age of 77. Dick Curl was Director of the Office of Intelligence Resources in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He was not the former Director, not the retiring Director, but very

much the active Director of that office, even at the age of 77.

Dick Curl devoted his life to intelligence. He served as a naval intelligence officer in both World War II and the Korean war, and with the State Department between those wars. And Dick began his work for INR in 1952. Overall, he gave his country over half a century of service.

Mr. Curl's obituary states that his work "involved contact with various foreign intelligence services as well as U.S. intelligence agencies." Suffice it to say that his role was often that of a mediator between the two different cultures, explaining the uses of intelligence to policymakers and Foreign Service officers while also ensuring that the risks and benefits of intelligence operations were weighed in light of broader U.S. policy interests that might be affected if something went wrong. Much of Dick Curl's career was spent teaching the policy and intelligence communities to listen to each other.

The staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence knew Mr. Curl since at least the early 1980's. They found him a valuable source of information and good counsel. Dick Curl will be missed by both the committee and his country.

#### RURAL SUMMIT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor for a different purpose today, however. I want to describe something that is happening tomorrow in Ames, IA, and something that happened last Friday in Bismarck, ND.

Some many months ago, I and Congressman DICK DURBIN, from Illinois, asked President Clinton to host a rural summit in our country prior to the writing of the new 5-year farm bill in Congress this year. The President took our suggestion and set December 1 of last year as a date for a rural summit. It would be the first ever of its kind held in this country prior to the writing of a new farm bill.

On December 1, it turned out that the Senate was going to reconvene and vote on the GATT treaty, and the result was the rural summit had to be postponed. The President was required to remain in Washington, and others who were to participate were to remain here as well. A new date was set, and that new date is tomorrow.

The President, the Vice President, the Secretary of Agriculture, and other Cabinet Members will go to Ames, IA, and they will convene a rural summit. The purpose of that is to discuss, before the new farm bill is written, what works and what does not in rural America, what kind of a farm program works to save family farmers, to try to provide an injection of economic life into rural economies; how can we improve on it, how can we change it, how can we offer more hope to rural America?

I give great credit to President Clinton for his willingness to do this. It is

long overdue that we take a fresh look at all of the programs and all of the initiatives and all of the efforts that are designed to try to help rural America. This is, after all, one country, not many countries, and the one country includes, yes, some of the biggest cities but also some of the smallest counties.

In my home county in rural North Dakota, as an example, where fewer than several thousand people live in the entire county, they lost 20 percent of their population in that county in the 1980's. In the first 5 years of the 1990's, from 1990 to 1995, the new census report shows they lost another 11 percent of their population.

The flip side of economic stress, that we register in the cities by taking a look at poverty and unemployment, for rural America is out migration, people getting in their car and leaving because there is no opportunity, they feel, in rural counties. What is happening in rural America is that many rural counties and rural areas are shrinking like prunes. The lifeblood is leaving these rural counties.

And so the question is what works and what does not, what kind of a farm plan, what kind of a rural economic development policy should we have in rural America to give everybody in this country a chance; yes, even those who live in sparsely populated areas.

Prior to the summit that will be held in Ames, IA, tomorrow, the President asked the new Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, to hold six regional forums around the country, and he has done that. I believe the last one is today in Illinois. He held one of those six forums in Bismarck, ND, last Friday.

At that forum, the Secretary of Agriculture brought along most of the Assistant Secretaries, and they were all there as a team from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to listen to family farmers. About 700 to 800 people crowded into this facility, the Farmers Livestock Exchange, to spend 3 hours at this forum. Another probably 200 people could not get into the facility, but because it was broadcast on a couple of radio stations, there were people sitting in the parking lot listening to their radios to hear the discussion during these 3 hours about rural America, about the farm bill, and about what works to try to rescue, revive, and breathe some life into rural America.

I know this subject would not sound very interesting or important to a lot of Americans. Most Americans take a look at rural America or farmers and they do not think much about them. They go to the store and buy elbow macaroni, and it is in a carton. Well, elbow macaroni does not come in a carton. That is the way it is sold, but it comes from semolina flour. You get that by grinding durum wheat that comes from the wheat field of someone who, most often, is a family farmer who risks all of his economic strength