

It doesn't include people who choose to exercise their constitutional right to assemble, right to free speech, right to keep and bear arms, to practice responsible civil disobedience, or to disagree with the Federal Government.

Neither the ultra right nor the ultra left, neither conservative radio programs nor the liberal media are guilty of this crime. The criminals who did it are responsible.

Those who would use this act of barbarism to lay blame on their political or ideological enemies, do every citizen of this Nation a great disservice. They are attempting to place the blame somewhere other than on the shoulders of the criminals themselves, not because of their grief, but the callous political self interest.

It also shows they have a shallow understanding of what makes our country great.

In this Nation, the rights of the individual come first. The guilty must be found, tried and punished.

The rights of the innocent must be preserved.

In this Nation, ideas and beliefs are not crimes. God forbid that they ever will be.

That is the constitutional prescription for our freedom. It should not be sacrificed for the short term political gain or national comfort.

(At the request of Mr. DOLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, the sense of the Senate resolution offered by the Senators from Oklahoma and the majority leader and minority leader reflects the desire of the U.S. Senate to voice its outrage at the horrible bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City as well as our desire to see swift punishment for those responsible. The resolution also offers the Senate an opportunity to express concern and sympathy for the lives tragically affected by this crime.

To the families of those injured or lost in the bombing, I offer my deepest sympathies. We all offer our thanks to the rescue workers, volunteers and law enforcement officials who have responded to the crisis with bravery, compassion, and extraordinary professionalism. Out of the depths of the despair caused by this criminal act, Americans are finding renewed unity and strength as we face together this adversity.

Right after the blast I was asked if this type of attack is the price our Nation must pay for a free and open society. I do not accept the thesis that we must live in fear—for our lives, for the safety of our children, or for our own ability to express ourselves. After all, our Nation is founded on the principles of protecting life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. None of these precepts was honored by the terrorists who ended or forever altered the lives of the victims of the Oklahoma City blast.

I personally rely upon my faith to help understand this tragedy and gain

a sense that justice will be served. As a Senator, I will join every other government official in the effort to ensure that the hunt for the perpetrators of this crime is successful and swift. And although I cannot support the imposition of the death penalty because of my longtime conscientious objection to it, I nonetheless condemn the crime in the harshest terms and am eager to know that the criminals are behind bars.●

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join today in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

The Combined Jewish Philanthropies has always been at the forefront of issues vital to the Jewish community, and I have been proud to work with members of this organization. As an organization that grew from 5 Jewish agencies in 1895 to more than 80 agencies in 1995, it has developed into one of the most successful charitable organizations in the world. Throughout these years, the CJP has had extraordinary success in improving the lives of countless people.

The CJP has helped to alleviate the horrors of the past by assisting in the rescue and resettlement of hundreds of thousands of survivors of the Holocaust, and it has faced the challenges of the present by assisting in the emigration and resettlement of large numbers of Soviet Jews. It has also laid a solid foundation for promoting social justice through programs that create jobs, help the needy, care for the elderly, and educate children.

During my years in the Senate, I have been proud to work with members of the CJP on many social programs in Massachusetts, including Jewish vocational services, family services, and Big Brother/Big Sister programs. We have worked together to develop counseling and job training initiatives for the Jewish community in our State, and we have helped over 5,000 Jewish immigrants during the past 6 years find jobs in Massachusetts. We have also worked together to ensure that young persons in need of role models have the opportunity to participate in the Big Brother/Big Sister programs in Massachusetts. It has also been a privilege to work with the CJP against antisemitism in the former Soviet Union and for the right of emigration.

The CJP's centennial celebration comes during a time of great challenge and great opportunity for the friends of Israel. All of us deplore the tragic violence that continues to plague the peace process in the Middle East. But I look forward to working closely with the CJP, the Clinton administration, and my colleagues in Congress, to secure a just and lasting peace and to ensure that Israel's vital security interests are protected.

I extend my respect and warmest wishes as the CJP enters its second century.

VOLUNTEERS HELP KEEP CALIFORNIA BEAUTIFUL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of thousands of California volunteers who have contributed their time and hard work this month to ensure California remains the Golden State that its people, the rest of the country, and the world have come to treasure.

April is Keep California Beautiful Month, and the nonprofit Keep California Beautiful, Inc., supported by thousands of individuals and businesses, as well as county, State and Federal agencies, have organized more than a hundred community-based projects to improve and maintain our publicly owned lands and facilities, from parks in inner cities to the wide-open spaces we all love. The specific objectives are to reduce litter, remove graffiti, expand recycling, and enhance natural resources in urban and rural areas.

This year, 1995, is the beginning of what we all hope will be an ever-increasing annual event in the years to come. As we tighten our belts and streamline government at all levels, volunteer efforts like Keep California Beautiful become even more important. In fact, the synergy created by the private-public partnership of this effort will, I believe, actually multiply our capability to do the hands-on work needed in all parts of the State.

This year's success will be the first of an ongoing annual event for years and years to come. That way, not only are we improving California for our children, but hopefully our children will improve it for their children. It is that kind of spirit that makes California special.

I commend my fellow Californians for their efforts and encourage everyone to get involved in Keep California Beautiful Month next year.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the skyrocketing Federal debt, which long ago soared into the stratosphere, is in a category like the weather—everybody talks about it but almost nobody had undertaken the responsibility of trying to do anything about it until immediately following the elections last November.

When the 104th Congress convened in January, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a balanced budget amendment. In the Senate only 1 of the Senate's 54 Republicans opposed the balanced budget amendment; only 13 Democrats supported it. Thus, the balanced budget amendment failed by just one vote. There will be another vote later this year or next year.