

Kennedy signed that bill, his last public bill signing ceremony. He gave me the pen. I have had it framed and keep it on my wall. *Primum non nocere.*

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN,
U.S. Senator,
Washington.•

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

THE BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

• Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, as of the close of the last recorded business day, Friday, September 1, the Federal debt stood at \$4,968,255,379,449.49. On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,859.58 as his or her share of that debt.•

ON FAMILIES AND VALUES

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the economic leaders in this Nation, with whom I sometimes agree and sometimes disagree, but for whom I have always had great respect is Herbert Stein.

Herb Stein is now a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and recently had an article in the Brookings Institution publication titled, "On Families and Values."

His comments puncture some of our balloons and bring us back to reality in a very practical, wholesome way.

I ask that his comments be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

ON FAMILIES AND VALUES

(By Herbert Stein)

O, Family Values, what wonders are performed in your name! In your name some political leaders propose to give a tax credit of \$500 per child to every income-tax-paying unit except the very richest. I use the expression "income-tax-paying unit" because no particular family relationship is required. There may be a couple, married or unmarried, or there may be a single tax-payer, male or female, and the children may have a biological relationship to both adults, to one, or to neither. At the same time, also in the name of family values, it is proposed to reduce federal benefits to mother-children units if the mother is young and poor.

We do not have a family problem in America, or, at least, that is not one of our major problems. We have a children problem. Too many of our children are growing up uncivilized. The family deserves attention today mainly because it is the best institution for civilizing children. We shouldn't get too sentimental about that, however. Through most of history the family that reared children was not our idealized Poppy-Mommy-Kiddies group but a much more inclusive relationship. The first family was the scene of a fratricide. The most famous families in literature, the Montagues and Capulets, were obsessed with fighting each other, with fatal consequences for their children. Long before Freud we knew that the family could be a nest of vipers.

Despite its blemishes, perhaps exaggerated in literature because they are exceptional, the family is the best institution we know for rearing children. It is the best because it is most likely to be governed by certain values—love, responsibility, voluntary commitment to the welfare of others, including

those least able to fend for themselves, who are, of course, the children. That is what family values are.

In the rearing of children there is no satisfactory substitute for the well-functioning family. We should try to strengthen such families by private example, public policy, and in any other way we can. But even families that function well need supplementation by other institutions. Some families do not function well, for economic or psychological reasons, and they need even more assistance. In modern societies it is recognized that other institutions have a responsibility and capacity to contribute to the raising of children. These institutions include government, whose wide-ranging functions, from education to preventing child abuse, are generally accepted.

Moreover, there are really no such things as "family values." What we call family values are simply human values that also exist and are desired in relationships outside the family although they are probably less dominant there.

Our need now is to bring what institutions, resources, and values we can to bear on the problem of our children. From that standpoint the current trend of policy seems perverse. The "child credit" has little to do with the welfare of children. Very few of the children in the tax-paying-units that would receive the credit are part of the children problem in America, or if they are it is not because the after-tax incomes in the units are too small. Little of the income that would be provided would go to the benefit of children. Presumably the additional income would be used for purposes that the taxpayer had previously thought were of lowest priority. Any need of a child that a taxpayer with an income of, say, \$60,000 would meet only upon receipt of a tax credit of \$500 could not be a very important need.

Neither is it reasonable to think that reducing government cash and food benefits to poor children who are themselves the children of poor child-mothers will help to civilize our children, although it may reduce somewhat the number of them born in the future. More care, nurturing, counseling, and education will be needed, in the home, in a foster-home, in a school, perhaps even in an orphanage. The drive to cut costs in the name of family values provides none of that.

When I say that "our" children need to be civilized, I do not refer to my biological children and grandchildren, or yours either, dear reader. I refer to America's children. When the bomb exploded in Oklahoma City we all went and prayed for the children. We did not say that they were only their parents' children or Oklahoma's children. They were America's children.

The children growing up in wretched families, in unsafe schools, and in vicious streets are also "our" children. A decent respect for family values calls for more concern with them and more commitment to them than is shown by most of those who now wave the flag of family values.

LARRY DeNARDIS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Larry DeNardis who on September 22, 1995, will be the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award of the Italian-American Society of Greater New Haven, Inc. The Italian-American Society was founded to celebrate and perpetuate the concept of the Italian heritage in America, and the society strives to acknowledge and commemorate the many contributions made by Italian-Americans.

Lawrence J. DeNardis was born and raised in New Haven, where he currently serves as the president of the University of New Haven [UNH]. Larry is well known in both the academic and public service arenas. His academic experience includes 16 years as associate professor and chairman of political science at Albertus Magnus College and 11 years as an adjunct professor at UNH. He has also been a visiting professor of government at Connecticut College, a guest scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars of the Smithsonian Institution, and a seminar instructor at Yale University.

In the field of government, Larry DeNardis has had the rare and notable distinction of serving as both a Federal and State legislator. After serving five terms in the State Senate from 1971-79, where I was proud to serve with him, Larry was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Connecticut's Third District in 1980. I should note here that Larry's elevation to Federal office came at my expense—I was on the losing end of that Congressional campaign. But in retrospect, I am grateful for his victory, since it opened the door for me to serve as Connecticut attorney general and in this Chamber. Larry served ably and honorably in Congress and then went on to serve as Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during 1985-86.

Larry continues to reside in the New Haven area, where he is currently an active member of many organizations including the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, Shubert Performing Arts Center, Mayor's Task Force on Transportation, Yale Medical School Library, St. Regis Health Center, and the Knights of Malta. He and his high school sweetheart, Mary Lou, have been married for 34 years and have four children: Larry Jr., Mark, Lesley, and Gregory and reside in Hamden, CT. Larry's work and commitment has been an inspiration to those who know him. I am proud to count him as a friend. I salute the Honorable Lawrence J. DeNardis as he accepts the Distinguished Service Award of the Italian-American Society for his decency, intelligence, and steadfast devotion to the community.•

TRANSRACIAL ADOPTIONS IN THE CHILDREN'S BEST INTERESTS

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, some weeks ago, the magazine Black Issues in Higher Education, which I read regularly for its scholarly and sensitive insights into higher education, had an article on transracial adoptions written by Dr. Rita J. Simon—no relative, a professor of law at the American University.

I have a special interest in this field because of some family involvement in the area, but what she writes makes so much sense that I thought this area in which there is sometimes more heat