

that respects the rights of religious minorities.

There has been some limited progress since 1982, but the situation for the Baha'is remains far from tolerable. Since 1979, 201 Baha'is have been killed and thousands have been jailed. Tens of thousands have been dismissed from jobs and denied the means to provide for themselves and their families. Baha'is, severely persecuted in life, are not even afforded peace in death. Fifteen thousand graves in the Baha'i cemetery in Tehran were recently desecrated as a result of an excavation to make way for a city cultural project.

The scope of this persecution would seem ample proof of systematic persecution. But if there were any doubt in the international community that the suffering of the Baha'is is a result of deliberate government policy, the United Nations dispelled it in 1993 by publishing a secret Iranian Government document. The secret code of oppression which came to light that year outlined Iran's design for the destruction of the Baha'i faith.

It ordered the expulsion of known Baha'is from universities. A common strategy of tyrannies—this process has succeeded in depriving higher education to an entire generation.

The document emphasizes that Baha'is should be punished for false allegations of "political espionage."

It calls for a multifaceted effort to stop the growth of the Baha'i religion.

And most frighteningly, it urges the destruction of the Baha'is "cultural roots outside their country."

The Baha'is suffer oppression not because they pose a threat to the power of the Iranian Government or the order of Iranian society, but because they refuse to recant their religious beliefs and accept the Islam of the mullahs.

There is perhaps no nation in the world with which we have as many differences as we do with Iran. Its quest for weapons of mass destruction and its support for international subversion pose direct threats to its neighbors, U.S. interests, and the interests of our allies.

If Iran is ever to enjoy normal relations with the free world, it must demonstrate a commitment to abide by the basic rules of relations among civilized nations. This must be made clear to Iran. But we must also communicate to the Government of Iran that Americans and, indeed, all the ever expanding free world, consider religious tolerance to be a minimal requirement for entry into the community of nations. A Baha'i, no less than any other human being, is entitled to the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

For Baha'is, as for many people, happiness is pursued through religious devotion. If the theocracy that rules Iran cannot accept that enduring truth, it has no right to consider itself a worthy member of the civilized world.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE FARM BILL

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to offer a few quick remarks regarding the Senate's recent passage of a comprehensive farm bill, especially how it relates to the Nation's dairy industry, from the dairy farmer, to the processor, to the consumer.

Mr. President, beginning in 1995, American fluid milk processors initiated what is essentially a self-funded program which aims to counteract a slow decline in the consumption levels of fluid milk. Strangely enough, fluid milk consumption in the United States has been declining over the past several years, due mainly to a misconception that milk is not good for you. The program's intent is simple: To change those misconceptions and thus increase the consumption of fluid milk. Thus far the program has been very successful.

This trial program exists under the authority of the Fluid Milk Processor Promotion Act of 1990, which is set to expire at the end of 1996. Later this month, processors will vote on whether to continue the program, which they are expected to do, but they will need the underlying authority to do so. Fortunately, Senator LUGAR's amendment included just such authority by removing the sunset date in the original legislation. I commend Senator LUGAR for his inclusion of the extended authority for the program.

Mr. President, promotion is the one area where milk processors and dairy farmers are working closely together and are in full agreement as to its benefits. This program, along with promotion efforts funded by dairy farmers, works to increase milk sales and help the entire dairy industry.●

THE RISING TIDE MUST LIFT MORE BOATS

● Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, yesterday our distinguished colleague Senator KENNEDY delivered to the Center for National Policy an important address challenging us to confront a number of issues critical to our economy and our society. I commend the address, "The Rising Tide Must Lift More Boats," to the attention of Senators and the public, and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

ADDRESS OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
FEBRUARY 8, 1996

I'm grateful to your president, Mo Steinbruner, for that generous introduction, and I also want to acknowledge your Chairman, my former outstanding colleague in Congress, Mike Barnes. I'm honored to address the Center for National Policy. The Center has made impressive and innovative contributions to the national debate. It truly is a national policy center. I hope to speak with you today in that spirit—about the future of the American economy, the clear and present threat to the American standard of life, and a strategy for a prosperity that lifts not only the numbers and statistics, but the wages and hopes of hardworking people.

By most indicators, the economy is doing very well. The stock market is hitting record highs. Inflation has been low and consistently so. Unemployment is down. And after years of slow growth, productivity is finally on the rise.

But those appearances are deceiving. The prosperity is less than it seems—because it is uneven, uncertain, and inequitable. All is not well in the American economic house, because all is not well in the homes of too many American workers and their families.

Americans are working more and earning less. Their standard of living is stagnant or sinking. They have been forced deeper into debt and they have less to spend. They worry—about losing their jobs, losing their health insurance, affording their children's education, caring for their parents in old age, and somehow still saving for some semblance of security in their own retirement.

President Kennedy said that a rising tide lifts all boats. And for the golden decades after World War II, that was true. But today's rising tide is lifting only some of the boats—primarily the yachts.

The vast majority of economic gains are being channeled to the wealthy few, while the working men and women who are the strength and soul of this country and its economy are being shortchanged.

From World War II until 1973, national economic growth benefited the vast majority of Americans. We were all growing together; but now we are growing apart—and the result is a tip-of-the-iceberg economy. Since 1973, the lower 60 percent of American wage earners—three fifths of our entire workforce—have actually lost ground. Real family income has fallen for 60 percent of all Americans, even as the income of the wealthiest 5 percent increased by nearly a third, and income for the top 1 percent almost doubled. As we approach the 21st century, we confront an economically unjustified, socially dangerous, historically unprecedented, and morally unacceptable income gap between the wealthy and the rest of our people.

Twenty years ago, the typical CEO of a large corporation earned 40 times the salary of the average worker. Today that CEO earns 190 times more. Can this be called fair? Can this be the basis of a good or even a stable society?

Productivity gains used to guarantee wage gains. But not anymore. In 1994 and 1995, productivity rose by 3 percent. Yet wages fell by more than 2 percent—the biggest drop in eight years. So the average worker did more, and yet the income gap grew worse.

Flat or falling wages are compounded by the ever present specter of layoffs. Once, corporations reduced their workforces only when they were in trouble. But now profitable companies are laying off good workers, at a time of increasing sales, in an endless quest for ever fatter profits and ever higher stock prices.

The recent merger between Chase Manhattan Bank and Chemical Bank earned rave reviews on Wall Street—but brought anguish and loss to so many homes. Stock prices soared, but 12,000 jobs will be lost. Can this be called fair? Can this be the basis of a good or even a stable society?

And as economic insecurity multiplies, other values suffer. Community and family feel the pressure. Parents work longer hours or take second jobs, and every extra hour on the job is taking from their children—time not spent at Little League, or PTA, or simply reading a bedtime story.

Every loss of health insurance; every cut in support for child care, schools, colleges, and job training makes it harder for families to earn a better future. There are those, even in my own party, who see a separation between economics and values—a theoretical