

That was the best part.

We were a generation who let the genie of our imagination out of the bottle by reading. Then, as now, reading was one of my great pleasures.

My parents had owned the Waterbury Record Weekly newspaper and then started the Leahy Press in Montpelier, which they ran until selling it at their retirement. The Leahy family was at home with the printed word and I learned to read early in life.

At 5 years old I went down the stairs on the Kellogg-Hubbard Children's Library, and the years that followed provided some of the most important experiences of my life.

In the '40s and '50s, the Kellogg-Hubbard was blessed with a white-haired children's librarian named Miss Holbrook. Her vocation in life had to be to help children read and to make reading enjoyable. She succeeded more than even she might have dreamed.

She had the key to unlocking our imagination.

With my parents' encouragement, the Kellogg-Hubbard was a regular stop every afternoon as I left school. On any day I had two or three books checked out. My sister Mary, brother John and I read constantly.

In my years as U.S. senator, it seems I never traveled so far or experienced so much as I did as a child in Montpelier with daily visits to the library. With Miss Holbrook's encouragement I had read most of Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson in the early part of grade school.

To this day, I remember sitting in our home at 136 State St. reading Treasure Island on a Saturday afternoon filled with summer storms. I knew I heard the tap, tap, tap of the blind man's stick coming down State Street and I remember the great relief of seeing my mother and father returning from visiting my grandparents in South Ryegate.

Miss Holbrook was right. A good book and an active imagination creates its own reality.

In my profession, I read computer messages, briefing papers, constituent letters, legislation and briefings, the Congressional Record—and an occasional book for pleasure—in all, the equivalent of a full-length book each day.

Interesting as all this is, and owing much of my life to those earlier experiences at the library, the truest reading pleasure was then. I worry that so many children today miss what our libraries offer.

During the past few years I have had many of my photographs published. DC Comics and Warner Brothers have also asked me to write for Batman or do voice-overs on their TV series. In each case, I have asked them to send my payment to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to buy books for the Children's Library.

It is my way of saying: "Thank you, Miss Holbrook."

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see my good friend from Washington State on the floor. If he is not going to seek recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, over the weekend, much has been said about the

two terrorist acts this country has faced. I assume that the crash of the TWA flight was caused by an act of terrorism. Obviously, the bomb in Atlanta was an act of terrorism. I assume the two are not connected and the motivation for either may be entirely different. But I hope that the American people will not allow themselves to be held hostage by these terrorists, because if we do, the terrorists win.

This is a great country. We sent armies to fight nazism and fascism around the world. This is a great nation that mobilized in World War II and did not allow the armies of Hitler to defeat us or the cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor to destroy us. If we did not allow those forces, that eventually numbered in the millions, to defeat us, we should not allow a few crazed people, no matter what their motivation, to do the same.

I also hope that we will have a careful and studied response of what is the best way to go after them. I feel strongly that better intelligence—and we have probably the best in world—that better and more intelligence is very important. Our law enforcement, State, local, and Federal, have worked with the greatest cooperation I have ever seen. We should admire Jim Kallstrom, the FBI agent in charge of the investigation into the TWA crash. And certainly, when we watch the Georgia authorities and the Federal authorities come together in Atlanta, for those of us who once served in law enforcement, we can only marvel at this level of cooperation.

But we should realize we are going to face more, not less but more, terrorist attempts in our country. We are the most powerful nation on Earth. Nobody can send an army marching against us or an air force flying against us or navy sailing against us. We are far too powerful.

But like any great democracy, we have one vulnerability. That is not a million-person army marching against us, but a half dozen well-trained, well-trained, strongly motivated terrorists. Their motivation may be to go to Heaven, their motivation may be some twisted psychotic sense that they are doing right. But they are the ones in a democracy who can strike the most, especially against a technologically advanced democracy like ours.

I heard some over the weekend say, "Boy, we'll get them. We'll just increase the penalties." I remind everybody that in Georgia, what happened carries a potential death penalty under Georgia law, to say nothing of the potential death penalty under Federal law. I remind my colleagues, in most criminal matters, penalties are rarely a deterrence because the person does not expect to get caught.

The example I use are two warehouses side by side. One has virtually no lock on it, another has a state-of-the-art security system. The penalty for breaking into these warehouses is

the same. But a burglar, of course, would take the unguarded one because he assumes he will not be caught.

We have to realize that you stop terrorism not by the easy feel-good things like simply passing legislation, saying we will be tough because we will increase all the penalties or whatever, because these acts carry the death penalty. But, rather, we take the very hard and difficult steps of making sure that our law enforcement is properly funded, equipped, and trained, that they have the tools necessary, within a democratic society, the investigative tools necessary to do this, and that we realize as a nation that while we watch terrorist activity in Great Britain, Germany, in France, in the Middle East, Israel, several of the Arab nations, the terrorism can strike at us. It can be from outside our borders, as the World Trade Tower bombs were, or home-grown, as Oklahoma City now appears to be. Either way, we are not immune. That is the bad side.

The plus side is that we are a resilient nation of 260 million people of diverse backgrounds, diverse philosophies and faiths, nationalities coming together to make one very great, vibrant nation, the most powerful democracy that history has ever known. And it is. We are so powerful, we are so vibrant because we have opened ourselves to all kinds of ideas, have encouraged all kinds of ideas.

We should not allow the terrorists to stop us from having this exchange of ideas and this openness of views. Virtually all Americans will join together in wanting these people caught. But virtually all Americans want to make sure we retain the constitutional freedoms that made us so great.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator may proceed.

WHY AFRICA MATTERS: EMERGING DISEASES

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, when I became chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs in 1981, I was asked what I knew about Africa. I responded, "Not much." But since that time, either as chairman or ranking member, I have spent considerable time working on African issues and have developed a deep affinity for the continent.

It is a region that is beset with many difficulties, but it also holds great