

are inherently violent and commit violent crimes ought to go to jail and spend a long time in jail with a sentence that is appropriate to that.

It is unforgivable in this country that the average murderer, the average person convicted of murder, is spending only 7 years in prison. That is unforgivable that our criminal justice system allows that to happen.

Again, we know what to do about that if we have the will. My friend, Senator CRAIG from Idaho, and I will introduce on Monday this legislation, and I hope very much that my colleagues will join us in saying this very simple message to all the States and all the people involved in the criminal justice system: Distinguish between violent and nonviolent offenders in our criminal justice system and say to every American, if you commit a violent crime, understand that you are going to spend all of your time in jail until the day that your sentence ends, and you are not going to get an hour off early. There is no good time, no parole, no help, no hope.

How do we do that? We do that through the resources we send to State and local governments that reward those States that adopt that provision, and, hopefully, State by State by State, we can develop a national policy that says to all Americans that we have begun to draw the line on violent crime, that we have sent a message to everyone who commits a violent crime that things have changed.

Mr. President, I hope, having given this long presentation, that some in the Congress will cosponsor, perhaps even the Presiding Officer, having listened at length, will cosponsor legislation of this type, and, one by one by one, we will achieve enough cosponsors on a bipartisan basis to this bill offered by a Democrat and a Republican. One by one by one, we will cosponsor, vote, and create a new law that does something good for this country.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR WENDELL FORD

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Harry Truman once said, "It is amazing what we can accomplish if we don't care who gets the credit."

That kind of selfless leadership is not found much in Washington anymore. But it is the essence of my great friend, WENDELL FORD.

Earlier this week, Senator FORD announced he would not seek a fifth term in this body.

For me, the news is bittersweet. I know how much Senator FORD looks forward to spending more time with his wife Jean and their family. I know how much he misses Kentucky, how much he simply just wants to go fishing with his grandchildren.

But I also know how much I will miss him and how much the Senate will miss him.

It is one of the traditions of this Senate that we carve our names inside our desks. Carved inside Senator FORD's desk is the name of one of this body's towering giants, Senator Henry Clay, "the Great Compromiser."

It is fitting that WENDELL FORD and Henry Clay should share the same desk—not just because they are both sons of Kentucky, but because they both understand that democracy requires compromise.

We can never compromise on principle. But we can—and we must—be willing to negotiate details if we are to accomplish anything of consequence.

That is one of many lessons I learned from WENDELL FORD.

It is ironic that WENDELL FORD comes from Kentucky, home of the great racehorses, because he is not a racehorse; he is a workhorse.

He has served the people of his State for more than 32 years as State senator, Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and now for the last 22 years as U.S. Senator. But he has always remained a public servant.

When he announced his decision not to seek reelection, Senator FORD said he loves this Senate as much as life itself.

The reason he loves it, though, is not because of the power or the glamour; those things have never really interested WENDELL FORD. He loves this institution because of the history that has been made here and because of the potential that exists here.

The potential to help people.

To make the promise of America a reality for every American.

To include those who have been left out.

That is why WENDELL FORD loves this Senate.

His great pride is not that he has sat with Presidents, but that he can sit and talk with friends at every creek and in every holler in Kentucky, and that Kentucky is better and, frankly, America is better because of his efforts.

He is truly a leader among leaders. We need more people like WENDELL FORD in the U.S. Senate today.

During his years here, Senator FORD has distinguished himself as a leader in areas from energy to aviation to election reform.

As chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, he helped reduce Senate committee spending.

He has been a long and persistent advocate of a 2-year Federal budget to help this body look beyond the immediate and plan better for our future.

He was the chief force behind the creation of an independent Federal Aviation Administration.

He was a prime sponsor of the motor voter registration bill which has brought millions of new Americans into the electoral process.

He was the chief sponsor, in 1990, of a Democratic campaign finance reform package, and I fully expect him to spend the next year and a half working to make bipartisan finance in campaigns a reality.

As Democratic whip since 1990, WENDELL FORD found yet another way to serve his caucus and his country. Whenever there has been a need, he has stood ready to fill it. Every Democrat—indeed, every Member of the Senate—has his or her own story to tell about how WENDELL FORD has made a powerful and positive contribution to this institution and to the Nation.

On a personal note, let me say that WENDELL has been a very special friend to my wife Linda and me. He has been a constant source of wisdom, of strength and perspective. I must say, I could not possibly express the gratitude that I feel for the great blessing that that friendship has meant to me now over all these years.

Years from now, when we are all gone from here, a new Senator will open the desk now occupied by Senator FORD and see his name carved there. He or she will be reminded not just of what this Senate was, but what it can be. As he looks at the names of Henry Clay and WENDELL FORD, and recognizes the greatness that that desk represents now, not caring much about who gets the accomplishment credit but just who gets the work done, they, as we, will thank WENDELL FORD for his contribution, for his vision, for his commitment to public service, and for his friendship.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. On behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, March 13, the Federal debt stood at \$5,362,035,571,060.06.

Five years ago, March 13, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,854,493,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 13, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,246,983,000,000.