

(G) from Washington, D.C., President Abraham Lincoln labored to preserve the Union and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. led an historic march that energized the civil rights movement, reminding America of its promise of liberty and justice for all; and

(H) The Government of the United States must continually work to ensure that the Nation's capital is and remains the shining city on the hill.

(3) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this section are to—

(A) designate the year 2000 as the "Year of National Bicentennial Celebration for Washington, D.C.—the Nation's Capital"; and

(B) establish the Presidents' Day holiday in the year 2000 as a day of national celebration for the 200th anniversary of Washington, D.C.

(b) NATION'S CAPITAL NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The year 2000 is designated as the "Year of the National Bicentennial Celebration for Washington, D.C.—the Nation's Capital" and the Presidents' Day Federal holiday in the year 2000 is designated as a day of national celebration for the 200th anniversary of Washington, D.C.

(2) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that all Federal entities should coordinate with and assist the Nation's Capital Bicentennial Celebration, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) entity, organized and operating pursuant to the laws of the District of Columbia, to ensure the success of events and projects undertaken to renew and celebrate the bicentennial of the establishment of Washington, D.C. as the Nation's capital.

AMENDMENT NO. 1276

(Purpose: To establish a remedial education pilot program in the District of Columbia in the District of Columbia public schools)

On page 49, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

SEC. 148. \$4,000,000 from local funds shall be available for the establishment of a remedial education pilot program in the District of Columbia public school system to remain available through fiscal year 1999, of which \$3,000,000 shall be used to create a one-year pilot program for the implementation of a remedial education program in reading and mathematics for the 3 lowest achieving elementary schools in the District of Columbia public school system (as to be determined by the District of Columbia public school system's Board of Education) and the training of teachers in remediation instruction at the targeted schools and \$1,000,000 shall be used to establish a continuing education program for all teachers in the District of Columbia public school system. The General Accounting Office shall report to Congress on the effectiveness of the pilot program funded by this section at the end of fiscal year 1999.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendments are agreed to en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, and 1276) en bloc were agreed to.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. 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.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the vote scheduled at 12:15 now occur at 12:30.

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

Mr. LOTT. For the interest of all Members, there has been a meeting at the White House that went a little over time and there are a number of Members involved. They will be here by 12:30, so the vote will be at 12:30.

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

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

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business, notwithstanding the upcoming vote, for 5 minutes.

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

BOSNIA

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my concern regarding actions last night in Bosnia. NATO forces, of which we constitute the major part, have again seized several Bosnian Serb radio transmitters because they were hostile to the peace-keeping goals of our forces.

No doubt that was the case. I have no question about that. But I suggest that were we at war and the issue more clear such action would be more than warranted. But we are not, Mr. President. We are trying to implement the Dayton accords, and as such I am concerned this action is not only questionable but may very well be counterproductive.

What did the stations do to warrant this action? They said bad things about the SFOR troops and our mission, and they tampered, apparently, with an hour-long program taped by Louise Arbor, head of the International War Crimes Tribunal.

The good news, Mr. President, is that no violence has occurred yet in regard to the seizure. But I remind my colleagues that the last time we did this our troops were stoned and we quickly returned the station. But we made the Serbs promise not to interfere with pro-Moslem or pro-SFOR messages. Is anyone really surprised, Mr. President, that the Serbs did not live up to that promise?

First question: Now what? Do we have a plan this time? Do we intend to monitor and control all of the media in Bosnia to ensure that only messages that meet our criteria are heard by the people of Bosnia? Is that what the NATO mission has become—one-sided and totally controlled by NATO? Will we put NATO media and our intelligence personnel, let's be frank about it, in charge to produce programs that fit our mission? Are we shining the light of truth into Serb darkness or are we holding a censorship flashlight?

If that is the case, I think you can make a good case that we are enforcing

the peace and we are aggressively establishing media control, then let's not kid ourselves and continue to call our role even-handed peacekeeping.

But here is the second question: What will we do if the Serbs react violently to the seizure? General Clark has stated rightly that we will use lethal force to protect our forces. Is this the issue that will precipitate that lethal force? Is this how we would explain loss of life to the parents of an American man or woman in uniform stationed in Bosnia?

Mr. President, we need to hear from the administration on last night's action and they need to outline the plan to get us out of this tar baby.

I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a story on the front page of last Thursday's Washington Post. This article tells the story of the beating death of a little 4-year-old girl, a little girl by the name of Monica Wheeler in Washington, DC. Monica was found dead in the bathroom of a man who was an acquaintance of her mother's. The police have ruled her death a homicide. In addition to being severely battered, Monica was suffering from malnutrition and showed signs of genital bleeding.

Now, Mr. President, 3 years ago, one of Monica's siblings, her brother, Andre, then age 2, was also found dead—in the same man's bathroom. That earlier death was ruled at that time an accidental drowning, but the police now are reopening that case.

Mr. President, it is up to the police and the courts to find out the truth about this particular tragedy. But one thing we know for certain is that there are far too many children returned to the care of people who have already abused and battered them, people who should not be allowed to take care of children at all. We know this occurs time and time again across this great country of ours.

Mr. President, every day in America three children actually die of abuse and neglect at the hands of their parents or their caretakers. That is over 1,200 children every year.

And almost half of these children are killed after—after—their tragic circumstances have already come to the attention of local child welfare agencies.

Mr. President, at the end of 1996, over 525,000 children were in foster homes. Over a year's time, it is estimated that over 650,000 children will spend some time in foster homes. Shockingly, 25 percent of the children in the foster care system at any one given point in time will languish in foster care longer than 4 years—25 percent of the kids. Ten percent will be in foster care longer than 7 years.