

no obligation to bring charges, there is no obligation to afford a hearing within a reasonable period of time, there is no obligation to permit legal counsel, and, in fact, there is no obligation to reveal who is being held in this enemy combatant status.

The Attorney General further asserts that if a prosecution in the court system is not proceeding in a promising manner, he has the prerogative of unilaterally removing the defendant from the court system and jailing him for an indefinite period without the need to prove the individual's guilt.

The administration's treatment of immigrants, material witnesses, and persons labeled as "enemy combatants" makes a mockery of our professed commitment to individual rights. Our great Nation does not have to abandon its Constitution and trample on the individual rights we hold dear to deal with the threats of a modern world. Terrorism is a threat to our Nation, but the undermining of our constitutional rights is also a threat.

The idea of America is admired and emulated all over the world, in large part because we believe that the right to liberty is fundamental. In those circumstances when the State has reason to deprive a person of liberty, that individual should have the right to know what he or she is charged with and to have access to meaningful review of those charges.

I urge the President, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Defense to advise the Congress and the American people of the steps they will take to afford basic procedural rights to all those I have discussed here. Too many generations of Americans have fought to protect these rights for us to look the other way as they are being denied and disregarded. Our children and grandchildren would expect better of us, and we should expect better of ourselves.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

AMERICORPS FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate showed its strong support for the AmeriCorps program on Friday by defeating an amendment to strip the \$100 million in emergency fiscal year 2003 funding that we in the Senate Appropriations Committee provided as part of the fiscal year 2004 Legislative branch spending bill. Without these emergency funds, Vermont will lose all but 15 to 20 of its over 100 AmeriCorps volunteers, and communities across the Nation are facing similar losses.

The dedicated young people who have answered AmeriCorps' honorable call to service contribute enormously to the strength of our communities. Whether they are helping to house the homeless, feed the hungry, or keep disadvantaged youth safe in fun and educational afterschool activities, they are often filling a sorely needed gap that the community cannot otherwise fill.

We must not let this vital part of our social safety net to unravel in Vermont and across the Nation, and that is why I am pleased to have cosponsored Senator MIKULSKI's amendment in the Appropriations Committee to add \$100 million for AmeriCorps, and why I voted on Friday to defeat the amendment to strip the money out. I urge all of my colleagues in Congress, as well as the President, to support this emergency funding.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the \$100 million included in the legislative branch appropriations bill for the AmeriCorps service program. It gives me great pride to know that more than 27,000 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping solve problems and strengthen communities through 79 national service projects across Wisconsin. This year alone, more than 700 individuals have committed to serve in Wisconsin communities as AmeriCorps members. To date, more than 3,900 Wisconsin residents have qualified for education awards totaling more than \$17,000,000. It is a tragedy to think just a few days ago, all of this may have been brought to a halt. It is with the swift action of the Senate last Friday, in preserving the \$100 million appropriation to make AmeriCorps whole, that we are able to ensure that AmeriCorps continues to provide every opportunity for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in service.

AmeriCorps has proven an excellent outlet through which people may get involved in their community. Throughout the State of Wisconsin, AmeriCorps volunteers work closely with local nonprofit agencies and K through 12 schools. These individuals perform substantial amounts of direct service that have benefited our State's citizens. They are tutoring and mentoring students in schools and afterschool programs, teaching children and adults how to read, building and rehabilitating low-income housing, providing street outreach to runaway and homeless youth, cultivating community gardens, and most importantly, demonstrating to others the joy that a selfless act can bring and in return, recruiting others to become volunteers.

As our Nation faces a period of uncertainty, AmeriCorps programs are in a position to help build a stronger, more engaged citizenry while tackling some of our country's most pressing problems. Last week, the Senate was able to show its commitment to volunteerism all across the country by sustaining such a vital program at such a crucial time. I am pleased that the Senate voted to maintain this funding in the bill, and I hope that the House of Representatives will agree in conference to retain it. Without such action, the critical services AmeriCorps programs have provided over the years would not be possible and the communities that have come to rely on AmeriCorps would suffer.

EXTENSION OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TO SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for Senate Amendment No. 1149, which would grant the President the authority to extend normal trade relations to Serbia and Montenegro.

As my colleagues may be aware, Serbia and Montenegro is one of just four countries that is currently denied normal trade relations, NTR, by the United States. Others in that group include North Korea, Cuba and Laos. Although there are certainly challenges in Serbia and Montenegro that must be addressed, as we discussed during a hearing of the Foreign Relations Committee 2 weeks ago, there is no doubt among my colleagues that this country no longer belongs in this category of "bad actors."

While the President has the authority to extend normal trade relations to most countries, the case of Serbia and Montenegro is different. In 1992, Congress revoked most favored nation status for Yugoslavia in response to the policies of former Yugoslav dictator Slobodan Milosevic, who was supporting nationalist Serbian aggression in the conflicts in Croatia and Bosnia.

The legislation passed in 1992, P.L. 102-420, prohibits the extension of normal trade relations to Yugoslavia, now Serbia and Montenegro, until certain conditions have been met. The President must certify that Serbia and Montenegro has ceased armed conflict with other peoples of the former Yugoslavia, agreed to respect the borders of the former Yugoslav states, and ended all support to Bosnian Serb forces.

As written, the law intended to stop Milosevic from aiding Serbian forces responsible for brutal atrocities during the 1990s. There is no doubt that the situation in Serbia and Montenegro has changed, and that the spirit of these conditions has been met. However, some support for Bosnian Serb forces is permitted under the Dayton Peace Accords signed in 1996. Given the situation on the ground in the early 1990s, the legislation enacted in 1992 did not provide the flexibility for this situation. As such, a legislative fix is required to permit the President to extend NTR to Serbia and Montenegro.

With Milosevic behind bars at The Hague and the current government taking action to promote democratic reforms following the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic on March 12, 2003, I believe that it is time to take action to extend normal trade relations to Serbia and Montenegro. While we should continue to call on Serbia and Montenegro to meet its international obligations to apprehend war criminals and cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, we should take this step to promote trade, economic development, and improved relations between the United States and Serbia and Montenegro.