

The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions and to progress, without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the more than 8,000 Catholic elementary and secondary schools nationwide. These schools, which serve over 2.6 million students, are a vibrant force in our country's educational and spiritual life.

During the month of February every year, communities throughout Nevada and the Nation celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. Sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, this annual national celebration provides an opportunity to acknowledge the important work of these schools in helping educate our Nation's children.

One day during this week, National Appreciation Day for Catholic School Teachers, specifically recognizes the hard work and dedication of the more than 163,000 educators who work in Catholic schools. The work of our Nation's educators is too often overlooked, but it could not be more important. I know I would not be where I am

today without one of my high school teachers, Mike O'Callaghan. I am glad that National Catholic Schools Week provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of those individuals who serve as the foundation of our schools.

Nevada's Catholic schools have contributed significantly to the education of my State's students for several decades. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a few of the schools that will be celebrating special anniversaries this year.

The only Catholic high school in Nevada, Bishop Gorman High School, will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. The oldest Catholic school in Nevada, however, is St. Joseph School, which will celebrate its 58th anniversary this year. St. Christopher, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Viator Elementary Schools also will all mark their 40th anniversary this year. These and the other Catholic schools in the State have long served Nevada well, and I am sure they will continue to for many years to come. ●

GLOBAL WARMING

• Ms. SNOWE. I rise today as lead cosponsor of S.J. Res. 5, the Feinstein-Snowe joint resolution that authorizes the Secretary of State to engage in efforts with other Federal agencies to lead international negotiations to mitigate the impacts of global warming. Our resolution encourages the United States to take actions to reduce manmade greenhouse gas emissions believed by the majority of internationally renowned scientists to be causing climate changes around the globe.

I support this resolution because ongoing scientific peer-reviewed research demonstrates that climate change is one of the most significant environmental and economical issues of the 21st century. Yet, I have grave concerns that our government, to borrow from the image of Nero, is fiddling as the planet warms.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol on climate change officially entered into force, with 141 States and regional economic integration organizations depositing instruments of ratifications, accessions, approvals or acceptances with the United Nations. The treaty, which will require mandatory cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in 35 participating developed countries starting in 2008, represents a watershed moment for international action on climate change.

The Protocol was agreed to by governments at a 1997 U.N. conference in Kyoto, Japan, to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by developed countries by 5.2 percent of 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

Even with the Kyoto Protocol going into effect, it is obvious that new and longer term ideas for securing international cooperation are necessary as we cannot get to the heart of this global problem without the world's major economies at the table. The United

States and Australia have not ratified the Protocol, and developing countries, while signatories to Kyoto, are not required to make cuts. This includes large, rapidly industrializing economies such as China, India, and Brazil. Clearly, as the causes of climate change are global and the atmosphere knows no boundaries, the challenge can only be met with all the countries of the world working together.

That is why, this past year, when asked by three major independent think tanks—the Center for American Progress in the US, the Institute for Public Policy Research in the U.K. and the Australia Institute—I accepted the co-chairmanship of the high level International Climate Change Taskforce—the ICCT—to chart a way forward on climate change on a parallel track with the Kyoto process.

This led me to meetings both in Washington and London with my co-chair, the Rt. Honorable Stephen Byers of the U.K. Mr. Byers told me that Prime Minister Tony Blair welcomed the creation of the taskforce and looked forward to its climate change recommendations that he could take forward as he assumed the presidency of the G8 and also the EU in 2005. In fact, Prime Minister Blair has made the issue of climate change a centerpiece of his agenda for the G8 meeting in July in Gleneagles, Scotland, and, recently, he included some of our recommendations in his speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

We have achieved our goals for recommendations for the taskforce, which is an international, cross-party, cross-sector collaboration of leaders from public service, science, business, and civil society from both developed and developing countries. We set out a pathway to solve climate change issues in tandem—collaboratively finding common ground through recommendations that are both ambitious and realistic to engage all countries, and, critically, including those not bound by the Kyoto Protocol and major developing countries. We hope our proposals will be a prelude to the international dialogue and, ultimately, set the score for lasting change.

Our ICCT report, Meeting the Climate Challenge, recommends ways to involve the world's largest economies in the effort, including the U.S. and major developing nations, focusing on creating new agreements to achieve the deployment of clean energy technologies, and a new global policy framework that is both inclusive and fair. The report also calls for the establishment of a long-term objective of preventing global average temperature from rising more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit—(2 degrees Centigrade)—above the pre-industrial level by the end of the century, and this same provision is contained in the Feinstein-Snowe Resolution.

Mr. President, the taskforce arrived at the 2 degrees Centigrade—or 3.6 degree Fahrenheit—temperature increase