

future is pockmarked with detours and disappointment. But we must be wary in the months ahead. Strenuous efforts will be made to amputate the national government's intervention in the lives of those pressed against the wall because of circumstances over which they have no control. It would be tragic to do that. It would be worse than a crime. It would be a blunder. It cannot be allowed to happen.

To give Faulkner's old verities a communal reality, we have to begin within the family, for parents to care enough, believe enough, do enough to begin the process. Parents, sufficiently armed with passion, can do the most.

Alongside this familial commitment has to be a zealous attention to teachers and schools. We have to be willing to pay for first class public education or it continues to be lousy education. We can't build enough prisons, or wield enough judicial sabers, or legislate enough tough death penalty laws to compensate for the collapse of discipline in the classroom, or the graduation from high school of too many who can't read or write or the total loss of Faulkner's verities. In a time when our national obligations are larger than our capacity to fulfill them all at the same time, our leaders must make it clear—painful, discomfiting, frustrating as it may be—that we have to reinstall the family and the school and the church as the central teaching centers for young people. We have to begin the journey back into ourselves before we can go forward into our future. Too idealistic? Too namby-pamby? Too impossible? 'Yes,' to all of those descriptions if you think a society can just amble along and keep its liberties alive when so much of its core convictions are in a state of decay. I don't. Every day liberty must be guarded, because like virtue it is every day besieged.

Then, why am I optimistic? Because all things are always in flux. Nothing lasts forever, neither triumph nor tragedy, nor the omissions of the human spirit. So long as we understand who we are, why we are what we are, and how we became so, then we will always be able to know where it is that we ought to turn and where we must go. Of course, this requires a national conviction. Without conviction, said Lord Macaulay, a man or woman will be right only by accident.

President Kennedy supposedly told the story of a French general in Algeria who wanted to plant a special kind of tree to line the road to his chateau. "But," protested his gardener, "that tree takes a 100 years to bloom." The general smiled and said: "Then we have no time to lose. Start planting today."

It's planting time in America. Faulkner's old verities will take root again much sooner than the General's trees.

TRIBUTE TO FRED MUDGE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career accomplishments and community leadership of Mr. Fred N. Mudge upon his retirement as president and CEO of Logan Aluminum, Inc., in Lewisburg, KY.

Mr. Mudge began his career 32 years ago as a plant manager with Anaconda Aluminum. Later, his aptitude for innovation and demand for quality guided him in his progress from site manager for Anaconda's Alpart facility in Jamaica to the position of vice president of technology for Anaconda and ARCO Metals of Chicago. In 1985, Fred Mudge invested his tenacity and expe-

rience in the position of president and chief executive officer for a new Kentucky company, Logan Aluminum, Inc. Through his foresight and hard work, Logan Aluminum today is a world leader in aluminum can sheet stock production.

Mr. Mudge's personal quest for excellence is not limited to the worksite. As a member of the Lewisburg community, he contributed to the revitalization of the local chamber of commerce and the establishment of an economic development commission. In addition, he assisted in the founding of Lewisburg's junior achievement program. Today, Mr. Mudge continues to work on behalf of his community as a member of the Logan Memorial Hospital board and the Western Kentucky University board of regents.

Mr. President, Fred Mudge's work as an industry leader and dedicated community volunteer demonstrates the essential skills and determination our Nation needs to successfully meet the future challenges of job creation and community development. While his daily leadership at Logan Aluminum will be missed, I am confident that the Logan County community will continue to enjoy the benefits of his energy and insight well into the future.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY A. HARDY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Mrs. Dorothy A. Hardy, for her many contributions to the town of Pelham, NH over the past 25 years.

Mrs. Hardy's distinguished services to the town of Pelham have included: dispatcher for the Pelham New Hampshire Police Department since 1970; active organizer with the Pelham Good Neighbor Committee; supervisor of the checklist chairman for over 25 years; long-time Republican Party activist, including 1980, 1988, and 1992 town chairman for President George Bush; member of the Pelham American Legion Post 100 Auxiliary, and Pelham newspaper correspondent for the Lowell Sun.

I would like to take this opportunity to highly commend Mrs. Hardy for her dedication, commitment, and numerous contributions to the town of Pelham and its citizens.

Mrs. Hardy has always been a source of great pride to her family, friends, and coworkers and will be sorely missed as she begins her retirement. I would like to extend a special thanks for her outstanding services and wish her all the best for a healthy and prosperous retirement.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before contemplating today's bad news about the Federal debt, let's do that little pop quiz again: How many million dollars are in a trillion dollars? When you arrive at an answer, remember that it

was Congress that ran up a debt exceeding \$4½ trillion.

To be exact, as of the close of business yesterday, Monday, January 23, the Federal debt, down to the penny, at \$4,796,793,782,628.86—meaning that every man, woman, and child in America now owes \$18,208.71 computed on a per capita basis.

Mr. President, to answer the pop quiz question—how many million in a trillion?—there are a million million in a trillion, and you can thank the U.S. Congress for the present Federal debt of \$4½ trillion.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on States and local governments; to strengthen the partnership between the Federal Government and State, local and tribal governments; to end the imposition, in the absence of full consideration by Congress, of Federal mandates on State, local, and tribal governments without adequate funding, in a manner that may displace other essential governmental priorities; and to ensure that the Federal Government pays the costs incurred by those governments in complying with certain requirements under Federal statutes and regulations, and for other purposes.

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Hatfield amendment No. 181, to increase the overall economy and efficiency of Government operations and enable more efficient use of Federal funding, by enabling local governments and private, nonprofit organizations to use amounts available under certain Federal assistance programs in accordance with approved local flexibility plans.

Dorgan-Harkin amendment No. 178, to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to submit a report to the Congress and to the President each time the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee takes any action changing the discount rate, the Federal funds rate, or market interest rates.

Hollings amendment No. 182, to express the sense of the Senate concerning Congressional enforcement of a balanced budget.

Graham amendment No. 183, to require a mechanism to allocate funding in a manner that reflects the direct costs to individual State, local, and tribal governments.

Graham amendment No. 184, to provide a budget point of order if a bill, resolution, or amendment reduces or eliminates funding for duties that are the constitutional responsibility of the Federal Government.

Wellstone amendment No. 185, to express the sense of the Congress that the Congress