

laws to be more efficient and less burdensome.

But, we must not exploit the current frustration with Government to gut all laws protecting our environment.

Those who claim we must eviscerate environmental rules in order to sustain our economy are at best disingenuous. They know—we all know—that we cannot strengthen our economy if we destroy our environment. In fact, establishing policies for a sustainable environment is an economic necessity. We must develop policies using balance, reason, and good science.

We will debate many important environmental issues in this Congress. Let us hold ourselves to those standards: balance, reason, and good science.

Pollution does not respect ideological boundaries. So our efforts to prevent pollution, to clean up mistakes from our past, and to plan thoughtfully for the future on this delicate planet must transcend those boundaries.

In my lifetime, the world population has doubled, and the U.S. population has soared from 150 million to 260 million people. At current growth rates, it's projected that the U.S. population will double—to 522 million people—just 60 years from now.

The cold, hard truth is that the Earth cannot supply the resources to sustain such a large human population unless we change our consumption and conservation practices now.

Earth Day reminds us that the Earth is not an infinitely bountiful cornucopia. Rather, it is a planet of finite resources from which comes the materials for our food, clothing, and shelter. We must learn to live within its geological and biological limits.

Environmental issues are often expressed in by scientists in complicated, technical terms. But the essential issue is really quite simple and critical for all of us to embrace. President Theodore Roosevelt put it best early in this century when he said: "A nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased—not impaired—in value."

We have an obligation to our children and our children's children to safeguard their future, to preserve the water, soil, air, minerals, rivers, and oceans that are the resource base of this diverse planet and the many life forms that inhabit it.

Last week, students at the Grandview Elementary School in Rapid City spoke with me about pressing environmental problems and possible solutions.

Let us not disappoint our children. Let us, Democrats and Republicans alike, heed Sitting Bull's plea to "put our heads together," to work together, "to see what life we can make for our children."

SAFE WORKPLACES FOR AMERICAN WORKERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, our Nation's history includes too many

tragic and avoidable workplace accidents that have maimed and killed workers.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire early in this century, in which women died because the owner had locked the fire doors to prevent them taking an unauthorized work break, remains one of the most horrifying examples.

Twenty-five years ago last Friday, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act. With that legislation, we made a commitment to all American workers that the places where they earned their living would not themselves pose a hazard to life or health.

Yet it has been just a couple of years since the Hamlet chicken processing plant fire had a result all too similar to the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory disaster, and for the same cause—a locked fire escape door. Twenty-five working people in North Carolina died in that fire.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act was intended to prevent such tragedies, but despite the passage of a quarter century, its work is not yet done.

Every year, more than 6,000 workers are killed by workplace injuries; more than 50,000 die each year from occupational diseases.

We have made great strides in cleaning up the chemicals and other contaminants that pose a hazard to health in many workplaces. Most American employers are anxious to create workplaces that will not cause injury to their own employees.

But the number of deaths each year, whether from immediate injury or from the long-range effects of exposure to hazardous substances, means we cannot say that the work of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration is finished. It is not.

It is inconceivable that, with this heavy toll of premature worker death, there is today a concerted effort to roll back and eviscerate workplace safety provisions that protect workers today.

This is a misguided and mistaken approach. We are seeing improvements in the rate of workplace safety, with reduced injuries and accidents. Clearly, the work done by Federal and State inspectors is having an effect. It is counterproductive to take an effective enforcement approach and seek to weaken it.

American workers deserve better. American workers should not have to fear that the Congress, which promised to protect their health a quarter of a century ago, will today renege on that promise.

There are undoubtedly improvements to be made in the enforcement field, but proposals to eliminate the tools of enforcement itself are not improvements. They will do nothing but undermine the ability of inspectors to do their job.

There are fewer than 2,000 Federal workplace safety inspectors. They are already overwhelmed by the scope of their responsibilities. If they don't

have the tools with which to enforce safety requirements, the promise of a safe workplace will become an empty one.

A week after the ultimate workplace tragedy, the bombing in Oklahoma City that took the lives of so many Federal employees as they worked at their desks, it is worthwhile to remember the tragic and wasteful loss of life that goes unremarked in the workplace every day.

I commend the AFL-CIO and its affiliates for the continued effort they make, through Workers Memorial Day, to recall to the national memory the lives needlessly lost to preventable injuries and hazards on the job.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this week we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Armenian genocide—the death of over 1.5 million Armenians and their exile from their homeland.

This terrible tragedy marked the beginning of an ugly period in human history where there have been attempts to systematically liquidate certain ethnic groups. The Nazi Holocaust, the extermination of the Kulaks by Stalin, and the ruthless murders of innocent Cambodians by the Khmer Rouge are all further examples of brutality against fellow human beings. Today, people are being killed in the Balkans, Rwanda, and Burundi once again because they are members of a different ethnic group.

What can we learn from all these tragedies and especially the one we commemorate today? The first and foremost lesson is to acknowledge that a tragedy occurred and admit that it is a crime against all of humanity. Then we must never allow the world to forget what happened here and the fate of these people. This is why we mark this date in history—and why we must continue to do so.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire was in a state of collapse. The Empire was exhausting its last strength in fighting World War I. The economy was in tatters and the Government was in a state of confusion. The victims of this time of upheaval were the Armenian people who were either killed or forced to flee their homelands.

The Armenian people kept their culture and beliefs, and with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Nation of Armenia was born. This birth has been a troubled one.

The tragic 7-year conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has cost thousands of lives and displaced over a million people. I am very encouraged, however, by the cease-fire which has been in place in Nagorno-Karabakh for 1 year this month.