

Peltier has since appealed his various convictions numerous times. Each time, the federal courts have upheld earlier court actions. The U.S. Supreme Court has twice denied Peltier petitions for certiorari, without comment. The record is clear. There are no new facts. The old facts have not changed and Peltier is guilty as charged.

Twice on national television, Peltier has admitted to firing at the two agents. He has openly stated that he feels no guilt or remorse for the murders. One has only to review his murderous misconduct when confronted by law enforcement officers to be convinced of that fact. Leonard Peltier has lived a life of crime. He has earned and deserves a lifetime of incarceration. Leonard Peltier is a murderer without compassion or feeling for his fellow man. In turn, he deserves no compassion.

Mr. President, on many occasions you have described this country's law enforcement officers as heroes and heroines. You have said that we must work together to ensure that hardened criminals who prey on the innocent receive punishment commensurate with the harm—physical, emotional and financial—that they have inflicted. We agree.

Peggy Coler, Special Agent Coler's widow, can't believe anyone would consider freeing Peltier, the man convicted of shooting her husband point-blank in the face while he lay unconscious. Her son, Ron, four years old when his dad died and now 22, can't understand how anyone could portray Peltier as the victim of this tragedy. Peggy and Ron Coler are against any thought of a pardon or commutation of Peltier's sentence. We agree.

Special Agent Ron Williams' mother, Ellen Williams, worries that Peltier's release into an unsuspecting society would only add to the list of grieving loved ones. She is convinced Peltier will commit violent acts against others. We agree.

Mr. President, it's time for Leonard Peltier to pay up. Our judicial system is overwhelmed, overworked and has spoken in this case, again and again. It's time to move on. Leonard Peltier is a vicious, violent and cowardly criminal who hides behind legitimate Native American issues. Leonard Peltier was never a leader in the Native American community. Peltier is simply a vicious thug and murderer with no respect or regard for human life, especially when law enforcement officers are involved. Our citizens, on and off the reservations, must be protected from predators such as Peltier. Our laws must be respected and obeyed or the penalty must be paid. The punishment must also fit the crime—and it does here.

Mr. President, since Leonard Peltier couldn't fool the federal courts, he is now trying to fool you and the public. He is shading and hiding the facts—and playing on sympathy. Don't let him get away with it, Mr. President. Sympathy is appropriate only for the dead heroes and their surviving families. Don't let their sacrifice be forgotten.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, when President Truman addressed the opening session of the conference that met in San Francisco in April 1945, he told the gathered delegates, "You members of the conference are to be the architects of the better world. In your hands rests our future. By your labors at this conference we shall know if suffering humanity is to achieve a just and lasting peace."

Neither Truman nor any other realistic person then or later believed that

an organization of the international community could, by itself, bring about an end to war. And, of course, the United Nations has not been able to achieve that.

But in regretting what an organization has not done, we should not overlook its achievements, and those of its associated organizations.

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. It is the only world body which has endured for so long.

Commemorative ceremonies are taking place in San Francisco today to mark the occasion. The Senate and the Nation can be proud of the fact that, among the delegates to those ceremonies is a man who was present when the original delegates began to meet, Senator CLAIBORNE PELL of Rhode Island.

It is a tribute to the enduring ideals of public service in our Nation that many of those who served 50 years ago in San Francisco continued in long and distinguished careers of public service. We are fortunate that Senator PELL was able to return after 50 years.

The history of the world since the creation of the United Nations has been turbulent.

The United Nations Organization often has been as unpopular as it has been admired in the United States and around the world. Its shortcomings have been criticized, and its errors have been magnified by those who opposed its creation and their political heirs.

Like every organization created and manned by human beings, it is far from perfect.

But the same observation can be made about every form of human organization, governmental and corporate, public and private. None are perfect; all can bear improvement. What's significant isn't how far an organization falls short of perfection, but how close it has come to achieving its goals.

It is a remarkable fact that in a century drenched with the blood of innocents in wars both large and small, the United Nations has provided a forum in which some of the world community's most dangerous disagreements could be controlled, if not reconciled.

Those who argue that the organization is a failure because it hasn't stopped war forget that throughout the long history of humankind, nothing has successfully stopped war. Huge, tyrannical empires like the former Soviet Union successfully curtailed wars among their component states—but that's not a model for peace that any free people can admire.

Today, when the painful costs of war in human life, human health, and hard-earned treasure is less visible to us in the fortunate nations of the Western World, it is tempting to suggest that the United Nations' shortcomings are so great, its failures so substantial, that it serves no further purpose that is in the American national interest.

There are many voices willing to make that claim. But they are mistaken.

In the post-cold war world, our Nation is the only remaining superpower. Our global trading partnerships and our security interests alike mean that American must be involved with the world.

It is not in the American interest to unilaterally take on the mediation of each and every conflict that may arise between nations. Yet a peaceful and stable world community is very much in our national interest.

There is no body other than the United Nations that can serve as a mediating forum for the disputes and conflicts that inevitably arise among the members of the international community. With all its shortcomings, if the organization did not exist, we would be forced to invent it.

In April 1945, when the idea of a world body was taking shape, President Truman observed, "When Kansas and Colorado have a quarrel over the water in the Arkansas River, they don't call out the National Guard in each state and go to war over it. They bring a suit in the Supreme Court of the United States and abide by the decision. There isn't a reason in the world why we cannot do that internationally."

In the wake of a half-century in which states have repeatedly gone to war, not to the negotiating table, Truman's words sound sadly idealistic. We think we know better.

But perhaps it is we who are being foolishly cynical. Perhaps it was Truman, that Midwestern man of great common sense, who understood more deeply what was at stake. He understood that if we did not strive to create a great organization, we would not achieve even a good one. He knew that if we approached the task with less than our ideals, we would reap much greater disappointment.

At a distance of 50 years, there is much many of us have forgotten about the times in which the United Nations was forged, and about the forces that made men and women work for its creation. On the anniversary of its creation, it is a good time to think back and remember that we are all charged with the responsibility Truman expressed 50 years ago: "We must build a new world, a far better world—one in which the eternal dignity of man is respected." That is a task every bit as important for our generation as it was for Truman's.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN BURGER

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, from the earliest days of our republic, the Supreme Court has always been one of the most important institutions in the land. Sitting at the top of the judicial branch, nine individuals pass judgment on cases of constitutional importance that are argued before them. Managing and administering this