

working to alleviate poverty, to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to feed and educate the world's children. Where conflict leads to destabilization of families and societies, the United Nations is there to shelter and feed refugees and displaced persons. Progress made on upholding international norms on human rights also stems from the work of U.N. agencies. Finally, the United Nations is responsible for many of the gains made in reducing the use of ozone-depleting substances, evaluating environmental impacts, and conserving biological diversity. These are but a few of the challenges facing the world today. Many of these problems have effects that do not respect national or geographic borders, and the United Nations offers a coherent and coordinated approach for meeting such challenges.

Mr. President, whether Americans feel the responsibility of exercising global leadership, are responding to humanitarian concerns, or seeking to expand opportunities for international trade and commerce, the United Nations offers us a critical world forum. To cripple the United Nations by an erosion or withdrawal of American participation would be a terrible mistake. The United Nations provides the institutional means for leveraging American diplomatic, economic, and military resources in ways that enhance our vital National interests. Opinion surveys consistently indicate that a solid majority of the American people recognize the positive role that the United Nations can play. I hope such recognition of the United Nations value and importance will be demonstrated when the Senate considers U.S. participation in and support for the United Nations. Let us heed the words of warning offered by President Truman in 1945: "The immediate and the greatest threat to us is the threat of disillusionment, the danger of insidious skepticism—a loss of faith in the effectiveness of international cooperation."●

ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN HARDWARE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, my hearty congratulations to the Michigan Retail Hardware Association on its 100th anniversary. This fine organization has been serving the hardware, home center, and lumber industry since July 9, 1895, when it was founded in Detroit. In reaching this milestone, they have weathered the years, surviving wars and depression, growing to be a robust and vigorous organization.

The backbone of this association is in the ranks of the hundreds of small business men and women who stand behind those hardware store counters each day, ready to serve their customers with a smile and a helping hand. Those weekend chores we all face, to fix up or cleanup our homesteads, becomes a pleasant endeavor after that cheerful visit to the neighborhood hardware store.

Over the years business leaders in this enterprise have come together and prospered, exercising that grand democratic tradition of flexing their common interests and gathering strength in numbers. By coming together, the members of the Michigan Retail Hardware Association make our communities and our economy solid, the skills of managers and workers are fortified, and camaraderie and good fellowship grows.

The trip to the hardware store has become a valued ritual for American families as they labor to make improvements on hearth and home. As we build and fix and sand and paint, we look to our hardware centers to give us the tools and gadgets we need to make our lives more comfortable and bright. For me, the nostalgia of the hardware store is that no small town in America really seems complete without a hardware store plunked down in the middle of Main Street.

My best wishes for this business group on the centennial anniversary of their founding. My best hopes for many more additional years of productivity ahead.●

HOUSE CUTS CRIME-FIGHTING DOLLARS

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to offer my strong opposition to actions taken by the House Commerce/State/Justice Appropriations Subcommittee earlier this week. In passing the 1996 appropriation's bill the subcommittee Republicans have set off on a course which would cripple Federal, State, and local efforts to combat crime. If the subcommittee Republicans' plan is adopted: New FBI agents will not be hired; 20,000 State and local police will not be hired; thousands of wife-beaters will not be arrested, tried or convicted; new DEA agents will not be hired; 80,000 offenders released on probation will not be tested for drugs or subject to certain punishment; and digital telephony technology vital to law enforcement will not be developed.

First, let me address the cuts to Federal law enforcement. The President requested an increase of \$122 million for FBI agents and other FBI activities—but the subcommittee Republicans cut \$45 million from that request.

I would also point out that the subcommittee Republicans provides no dollars of the \$300 million authorized for FBI in the Dole/Hatch counter-terrorism bill. This legislation has not passed into law, so some might say that is the reason that none of these dollars are made available. But, the subcommittee Republicans did find a way to add their block grant which passed the House, but not the Senate.

So, I do not think there is any explanation for cutting the FBI other than a fundamental lack of commitment to Federal law enforcement by the subcommittee Republicans. I have heard time and again over the past several

months from my Republican colleagues in the Senate that the President was not committed to Federal law enforcement. I have heard time and again from my Republican colleagues that they would increase funding for Federal law enforcement.

Well, something just does not add up—House subcommittee Republicans will not give the President the increase he requested for the FBI, despite all the rhetoric I have heard over the past several months.

The cuts to Federal law enforcement do not even stop there. The House subcommittee Republicans cut \$17 million from the \$54 million boost requested for DEA agents by the administration. That is more than a 30-percent cut. The House subcommittee Republicans provide no dollars of the \$60 million authorized for DEA in the Dole/Hatch counterterrorism bill.

Let me review another area where the actions of these subcommittee Republicans are completely opposite the rhetoric I have heard from the other side here in the Senate.

The Violence Against Women Act—having first introduced the Violence Against Women Act 5 years ago, I had welcomed the bipartisan support finally accorded the act last year. I would note the strong support provided by Senators HATCH and DOLE.

But, when we have gotten past the rhetoric and it came time to actually write the check in the Appropriations Subcommittee, the women of America were mugged. The President requested \$175 million for the Justice Department's violence against women programs, and the House subcommittee Republicans have provided less than half—\$75 million.

While the specific programs have not been yet identified, that \$100 million will mean the key initiatives will not get the funding that everyone on both sides of the aisle agreed they should: \$130 million was requested for grants to State and local police, prosecutors and victims groups; \$28 million was requested to make sure that every man who beats his wife or girlfriend is arrested; \$7 million was requested for enforcement efforts against family violence and child abuse in rural areas; and \$6 million was requested to provide special advocates for abused children who come before a court.

I keep hearing about how the Violence Against Women Act is a bipartisan effort. In all the new so-called crime bills I have seen proposed by Members of the other side, not once have I seen any effort to repeal or cut back on any element of the Violence Against Women Act. But, the actions of the House subcommittee Republicans tell a completely different story.

To discuss yet another troubling aspect of the House subcommittee Republican bill—this bill eliminates the \$1.9 billion sought for the second year of the 100,000 police program. That \$1.9