

For the past 2 years, I have joined with Senator DOMENICI and several of our other colleagues in introducing the previous character counts bills, and I have been very pleased with its reception by our colleagues and our constituents.

We have come together again this year to draw attention to the fact that our Nation is experiencing a crisis of values. This crisis is reflected in the rising tide of violence that kills children in the cross-fire on school yards and in front of their houses, and in the increasing number of children who kill each other.

This crisis goes beyond crime. It is reflected, also, in the recent survey of youngsters conducted by the Josephson Institute of Ethics. These ordinary youngsters may never be involved in crime, drug abuse, or teenage pregnancy, but they still acknowledge disturbing ethical lapses;

Two out of five high school age boys and one in four girls have stolen something from a store.

Nearly two-thirds of all high school students and one-third of all college students had cheated on an exam.

More than one-third of males and one-fifth of females aged 19-24 said they would lie to get a job and nearly one-fifth of college students had already done so in the last year. Twenty-one percent said they would falsify a report to keep a job.

As a character in John Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men" complained, "Nothing is wrong anymore." Unfortunately, a lot is wrong and our society seems reluctant to admit the problem, and to teach again and live by the values of right and wrong.

This is the core message of character counts—that there are core values that our society agrees on and that should guide our decisionmaking. These values, as set out in the resolution, are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. These values are and have been supported by an extremely broad and diverse coalition of people, including former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett, the late Barbara Jordan, actor-producer Tom Selleck, and Children's Defense Fund founder Marian Wright Edelman. Among our colleagues, Senators with such diverse political viewpoints as Senator HELMS and Senator BOXER have supported similar efforts in the past. I come before the Senate today on behalf of this group to urge continued attention to this important problem.

In recent months, I have joined with my colleague Senator LIEBERMAN and Secretary Bennett in an effort to raise awareness of the connection between what people see in the media and the way they live their lives. One of the points we have tried to stress to media producers and the advertisers who support these shows is that they have a responsibility to consider the societal context in which their programs play. It is difficult for our children to see

trash and violence on television every day and avoid falling into those habits in their own lives. By the same token, we as citizens have a responsibility to provide an example of good character for our children to follow. If they see us upholding the pillars of good character in our everyday lives, it becomes easier for them to live that way.

This is a resolution considered by members of the Senate and House in Washington, DC. But it is the parents, teachers, coaches, ministers, big brothers and sisters in local communities who will lead the fight for values in our Nation. As a result of the efforts by the Character Counts Coalition, people in all areas of the country are more aware of the problems we face, and have begun to incorporate these values into their everyday lives and those of their children. Senator DOMENICI has outlined some of these efforts. We resubmit this resolution to remind the Senate that the work on this issue is far from over, and again to enlist our colleagues' support in reinforcing that these values are fundamental to our society. I am proud to join my colleagues, especially Senator DOMENICI, in this effort once again, and I urge the Senate to support this resolution.

HONORING THE BERQUISTS FOR CELEBRATING THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, these are trying times for the family in America. Unfortunately, too many broken homes have become part of our national culture. It is tragic that nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce. The effects of divorce on families and particularly the children of broken families are devastating. In such an era, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "til death do us part" seriously and have successfully demonstrated the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity, to build a strong family. These qualities make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor the Reverend and Mrs. Ernie Berquist of Springfield, MO, who on February 28 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Berquists' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized. I wish them and their family all the best as they celebrate this substantial marker on their journey together.

UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAQ

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern over ongoing discussions in New York between Iraqi representatives and the United Nations Secretariat over possible implementation of U.N. Security

Council Resolution 986. Should Resolution 986 be accepted by Iraq, \$2 billion of Iraqi oil would be permitted to be sold on the international market over a 6-month period. A loosening of the economic embargo under Resolution 986 would occur without any linkage to the cessation of Iraq's drive to acquire weapons of mass destruction. The prospect of even a partial lifting of the Iraqi embargo at this time raises a number of concerns and may serve to remind Members of the continuing duplicity and intransigence of the Iraqi regime, and the costs the United States has borne as a result. Moreover, the fact that the recent discussions over implementing Resolution 986 have occurred in a virtual information blackout, without the input or oversight of the American U.N. Representative, adds additional concern.

If accepted by Iraq, Resolution 986 would permit Iraq to sell oil in order to finance humanitarian goods and address "the serious nutritional and health situation of the Iraqi people." Resolution 986 would not, however, require Iraq to cease its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction—the foremost reason sanctions were imposed against Iraq in the first place. While reducing the suffering of the Iraqi people is certainly a laudable goal, the cause of this suffering rests squarely and completely on the shoulders of Saddam Hussein. His continued refusal to accept relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions regarding cessation of the production of weapons of mass destruction and his continued harsh internal repression against the people of Iraq are the causes of the economic embargo and the deprivations suffered by the Iraqi people, as well as others in the region.

Despite apparent cooperation with U.N. monitors in some areas, evidence of Iraq's ongoing effort to build weapons of mass destruction was obtained as recently as 2 months ago. On December 8, 1995, Jordan said it intercepted a shipment of missile guidance components bound for Iraq. A few weeks later, on December 26, Jordan intercepted dangerous chemicals on their way to Iraq. On December 15, 1995, the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) reported that Iraq continues to conceal and provide false information on its efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. Mr. President, these incidents alone, even ignoring past acts of terrorism and weapons procurement, should be sufficient cause to continue fully the economic embargo against Iraq. Even a temporary allowance for "humanitarian" oil sales will decrease the pressure on Iraq to comply with U.N. requirements to dismantle its facilities for the production of weapons of mass destruction and could free-up other Iraqi resources for its weapons programs.

Beyond ceasing production of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, Saddam Hussein is also required to end