

This Ojibwe School should have been provided with a new school years and years ago. It was once on a priority list and somehow it got dropped off that list. There is a current priority list for construction, but the BIA cannot tell us how the priority list was arrived at, who is on it, or how it was constructed. This is a mess. One way or another this has to be addressed, because we cannot put 400 children in unsafe circumstances in this Ojibwe School. The BIA and our Congress has a responsibility.

I almost feel that we must think about having 400 children look at the people who walk in the door of the BIA or through the front doors of Congress every morning until we look in the eyes of those children and say, "We owe you a decent school to attend."

I must move on to another topic, but we will talk more about this later. I say this with the greatest respect to the people who are managing this bill. I say to the BIA, you must begin addressing these issues that deal with Indian children.

CRIME

Mr. DORGAN. In the next 3 or 4 minutes I will introduce a piece of legislation. It is late in the session, but I intend to push on this legislation in the next session of Congress, as well. It deals with crime.

One-third of all violent crimes in this country are committed by people who are under supervision. Under supervision means people on probation, parole, or pretrial release. One-third of all violent crimes are committed by people we know because they are already in our system. They are in jail and let out. In most cases, they are let out early. It does not take Dick Tracy to figure out who will commit the next crime. In most cases it is someone who has committed a previous crime.

Now, in the Federal system, which we control, we allow automatic good time for Federal prisoners. It is not supposed to be automatic because this Congress passed a piece of legislation, that I authored, that revoked automatic good time and said Federal prisoners will get good time only if the present system decides to bestow it upon them for exemplary behavior. The prison system interprets that differently and automatically gives every prisoner automatic good time off for good behavior. That is not what the Congress meant.

Now, I have a different idea. I think in the Federal system and also in the State and local system in the criminal justice system, we ought to have a system that says to people who commit violent crimes: "If you commit a violent crime you are going to go to prison and you will spend your entire term or sentence in jail." No good time off for good behavior. No rewards for doing well in prison. If you commit a violent act you will go to jail and stay in jail until the end of your sentence.

We do not run the State and local criminal justice system, but we do run the Federal system. Let me give an example of one Federal prisoner named Martin Link. In 1982, Martin Link grabbed a 15-year-old girl in an alley in St. Louis, MO, sodomized her and tried to rape her. In 1983, he forced another young girl into his car, took her to East St. Louis and raped her. He was sentenced to 20 years in Federal prison, and was released in 6 years because of a combination of good time credits and parole. Soon afterward, he got a year's probation for soliciting sex from an undercover agent. The next year, in 1990, he stole a car, but he was still on the streets in 1991 when he murdered an 11-year-old girl named Elissa Self-Braun while she was walking to her schoolbus from her home.

This fellow is awaiting death in the Federal prison system. But he, like so many others convicted of violent crimes, was walking our streets early because we still have in the Federal system good time off for good behavior for those who commit violent crimes—for all Federal prisoners. For those who commit violent acts, it seems to me we ought to say in this country: "Understand this, if you are a criminal and prepared to commit a violent act, there will be no reward for you once you get to prison." When you get to prison, whatever the judge says your sentence is, your sentence will be—no good time off for good behavior for those who commit violent crimes.

Do you know that there are more than 4,000 people who have been murdered in this country—murdered by people who should not have been on the streets to murder anybody? They should have been in jail, in prison, but they were let out early. Now, the prison system authorities say, "Well, we need incentives to make people behave in prison, and we need opportunities to tell people that if you behave behind bars, we will give you good time off for good behavior."

My interest is in establishing order on American streets. We don't do that by letting violent criminals out of prison before the end of their sentence. If they have trouble managing violent offenders in prison, think of what happens when those violent offenders get back on our streets.

Let me end where I started. One-third of all violent crimes committed in this country are committed by people who are on probation, parole, or pretrial release. We know who they are, we know what they do, and we know what they are going to do. We ought to decide to get smart on these issues. In the Federal system we can decide that they will spend the entire time in prison, without good time off for good behavior. I am introducing my legislation which would do that. I invite my colleagues to cosponsor it. Recognizing we won't be able to advance it this year, I hope next year we will be able to have a vote on this piece of legislation.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 11:30 a.m. having arrived, there will now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each, with Senator THOMAS controlling the time between now and 12 noon.

APPOINTMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the appointment of Sheila Mann, of Maryland, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress for the 104th Congress, vice Richard N. Smith.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

AMERICANS HAVE TO MAKE CHOICES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, as you know, for some time now, we have attempted to have the freshmen of the Senate come on to the floor, from time to time, to talk about issues we think are important. We call this "Freshman Focus." We appreciate this time to do that. I will be joined by at least one of my associates, very soon. Many of the others have departed for home.

Mr. President, we wanted to talk a little today about choices—choices that we have in a Government like ours, the one that President Lincoln said was a Government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," which we all, of course, want to maintain. In order to do that, then each of us, as citizens, as the people who will run this Government, need to make choices, need to make decisions, and need, of course, to be as informed as we can be with respect to those choices.

In order to be informed voters, and in order to participate in those decisions that will guide the country, not only in the short term but in the long term, I think we have to decide what those fundamental choices are and then, of course, decide for ourselves how we approach them. And there are fundamental choices, choices that have impact over time, choices that affect this country and the way it is organized, in its purpose, and its goals—not just the short-term issues that sort of are instant gratification for each of us. Of course there are those, and we always like that. But the fact is that there are basic issues that really will affect the way we operate over the years, not only for those of us who are now voting, but for our kids and our grandchildren. Those are the ones that, it is my belief, we should really focus on and seek to bring out in our own minds, at least how important they are.