

what kind of outcry there would have been if these acts of violence were inflicted on any other group but the most dispossessed.

I'd like to read a few letters by some Vermonters who lost their homes this year. They wrote these last April during the HUD crisis when many of our services would have been wiped out by unexpected cuts in funding.

"DEAR — I'd never been homeless before this winter. I was out of work suddenly, lost my apartment and had to find a place to stay. . . I was at the Waystation. . . where I met some people who took care of each other, no matter our differences in lifestyles, skills, education or so called sanity. I have a college degree, many skills and I want to work and to give to the community. What I'm saying is that almost anyone could become homeless after some unexpected misfortune. Whether they can work or not they still need food and clothing, safe shelter, and people who care about them. . . I started to work again last week and my home will be open for anyone who needs a place to stay. I won't forget."

"I lost the comfort of my affordable apartment when the building I lived in was closed because of fire. Also, 49 other families were displaced. The renovation of his building will take 18 to 24 months according to the owner. I have not had comfortable housing since that fire on September 7, 1996. My address was 127 St. Paul street where Vermont Transit was located. In the meantime, I'm number 1030 on the Burlington Housing Authority waiting list. What I miss most about my apartment was the peace of mind it gave me. Sincerely, Arlen D."

I'm not sure if Arlen knows yet that only 5 of the renovated units will be rented at a rate anywhere near what he can afford.

We hear a lot these days about building strong communities, and God knows, we've heard no end of how it takes a village to raise a child. But what's missing in all of those discussions is the primacy, the importance and the function of home within any community or village. Think about what home means for all of us. It's the place we gather with family, it's where we sleep and dream and let down our guard at the end of the day. Home is where we keep and cherish what we love: our family, our books and music, whatever it is that we hold dear. It's the place we store all of the things we can't bear to part with: our high school graduation photos, our grandmother's wedding ring, a fifth grade award for spelling. Home is the one place where we can create a safe world within a larger more threatening world.

Losing a home means that you only keep what you can carry in your hands and on your back. It means leaving behind many of the belongings that remind you what has mattered in your life. It means losing connection with your own history. For children, not having a home is devastating; it means losing their pets, their storybooks and their favorite toys.

I cannot imagine the damage done when a child is torn from her home, when she sees her family's belongings piled up on the sidewalk, when she has no idea where she will sleep at night. I cannot imagine the pain a seven year old feels when he's called "shelter trash" by the other children in his school. What I do know is that without the foundation of home, any efforts to build meaningful community will fail. It's untenable to think a village can raise healthy children when its children are sleeping in emergency shelters and on the streets. I remember what a local businessman said to me once, a pretty conservative guy. He'd written a very large check for COTS. I asked him if he wanted his gift targeted to our job program which is popular with many of our business sup-

porters. He said no, the shelters. He was surprised that I was surprised by his answer. If these folks don't have a place to sleep at night, he explained, a place to take a shower, they're not going to get a job or an apartment no matter what kind of training they have. They'll be trapped. First things first, he said.

This past year we helped put first things first for more than a thousand homeless families and individuals. They came to COTS because they had no place left to turn. They came from Burlington, Essex, Colchester, Shelburne, Ferrisburgh, Williston, Milton, Westford, Underhill, South Burlington and Jericho. And for every one of them COTS offered not just a refuge but a chance to reclaim their own lives. We provided vocational counseling, job placement services, budgeting assistance, unremitting encouragement, and workshops on everything from nutrition to conflict resolution. For the children, we made certain that every child at our shelter had a brand new backpack, fresh notebooks and pencils for school.

None of the work we did, none of the achievements, would be possible without all of you gathered here today. You volunteer for our phonathon, and donate expert legal, financial and human resource advice to COTS. You answer the phones, spend time with the children at our shelter, and repair our computers. You provide us with graphics and design work that we could never otherwise afford. And you bring us brownies and cookies and flowers because you know the work we do is sometimes heartbreaking.

During the HUD crisis this spring, you came forward with calls, letters, and connections. I want especially to thank Gretchen Morse who was my shrewd political advisor and moral support during the worst days I've ever had in the 5 years I've worked at COTS. I am deeply grateful to Lucy Samara who traveled to Montpelier, alerted the entire religious community about the crisis, and then worked the phones every night like a seasoned politician. She was extraordinary. It terrifies me to think what could have happened without her leadership and initiative. I'd like to thank Barbara Snelling for her eloquent support at the statehouse. And thank you to Doug Racine and the entire Chittenden delegation with special thanks to Jan Backus and Helen Reihle. I am also very grateful to Con Hogan for his advocacy within the Dean Administration. And most of all, I want to thank Senator Leahy for standing up to HUD. I deeply appreciate all of the business owners, the religious leaders, our friends up at UVM who called or wrote on our behalf. Finally, I want to thank those of you without homes who had the courage to put your stories on paper.

Someone from Senator Leahy's staff told me that it was astounding what a diverse range of people called to voice their concerns about COTS. She said it was the most unlikely array of people she could possibly imagine. I told her to come to a COTS walkathon if she wanted to see unlikely combinations of people. This year we had Trey Anastasio from the band Phish walking beside a big deal lawyer from Green Mountain Power and they were walking just a few feet ahead of 4 Sisters of Mercy, one of whom was chatting with a liberal progressive or maybe an anarchist who was walking just in front of a conservative businessman who was strolling along with a recovering alcoholic who stayed at COTS Waystation 5 years ago. Heading up the rear was former governor Tom Salmon and leading the walk were Barbara Snelling and Patrick Leahy. How is this possible?

I believe that when you give your time and support to COTS, you are doing far more than writing a check or working on whatever

task is at hand. I believe that what you are really doing is taking a stand, a stand against indifference. When you support COTS you are holding firm with us in the unwavering conviction that every human being has value; and that no one should be discarded or left behind (or set on fire) just because they are poor. When you give your time to COTS, when you help ensure that there is shelter and support for those who have nothing, you reaffirm humanity. That's a tremendous gift to give. And I thank you.●

DR. DAVID SATCHER

● Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I deeply regret that we have been unable to vote on the nomination of Dr. David Satcher as the Surgeon General and the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Public Health Service.

As a graduate of Ohio's medical school system, Dr. Satcher is truly a commendable choice for our next Surgeon General. The expediency of his nomination process gives an overwhelming indication of the impressive and extensive reach of his medical career. It is a career in which Dr. Satcher has placed considerable emphasis on the medically impoverished. He has demonstrated an unrelenting compassion for those less fortunate, and to quote Dr. FRIST, "allowed science to drive his decision making" throughout his brilliant career.

Born in rural Alabama his interest in medicine grew after a near-fatal bout with whooping cough at the age of 2. Even though his parents had only the benefit of elementary educations, they instilled in him the passion and drive to pursue his dreams. He received his B.S. from Morehouse College and became the first African-American to earn both an MD and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, while being elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

After excelling in medical school, Dr. Satcher began his career at the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center in Los Angeles. There he developed and chaired King-Drew's Department of Family Medicine and served as the interim dean of the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School. As interim dean, he directed the King-Drew Sickle Cell Center for 6 years and negotiated the agreement with the UCLA School of Medicine and the Board of Regents.

Before being appointed to his current position of Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], Dr. Satcher returned to Atlanta to chair the Community Medicine Department at Morehouse School of Medicine, where he received the Watts Grassroots Award for Community Service in 1979. He then served as the president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville for the following decade. While at Meharry, he was the recipient of the National Conference of Christians and Jews Human Relations Award and was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and was appointed to the Council on Graduate Medical Education.

In November 1993, Dr. Satcher was appointed as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]. With policies he initiated, he has been credited with increasing child immunization rates from 52 percent to a record 78 percent in 1996, and improving the Nation's capacity to respond to emerging infectious diseases. During his tenure, the CDC has placed considerable emphasis on prevention programs as its breast and cervical cancer programs have now been expanded to all 50 States. In his current position, Dr. Satcher has garnered even more awards, including *Ebony* magazine's American Black Achievement Award in Business and the Professions, the Breslow Award for Excellence in Public Health, and recently the Dr. Nathan B. Davis Award for outstanding public service to advance the public health and the John Stearns Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medicine from the New York Academy of Medicine.

I believe HHS Secretary Dr. Donna Shalala described Dr. Satcher in the best manner, when she said that he brings "world-class stature, management skill, integrity, and preventive health care experience" to any office or title he may hold. President Clinton has stated that Dr. Satcher should concentrate heavily on reducing smoking, particularly among children. As an advocate for preventive health in family medicine, Dr. Satcher has worked to heighten awareness about all American's health and will continue to do so.

Mr. President, I believe that Dr. Satcher will bring the same professionalism, dedication, skill, and most of all character to this new position that he has shown throughout his professional career. I strongly urge my colleagues to support his nomination to the post of Surgeon General of the United States.●

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to express my gratitude to the diligent work of our leaders in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee especially the chairman, Senator CHAFEE and ranking member, Senator BAUCUS along with the chairman of the Transportation Subcommittee, Senator WARNER in crafting a comprehensive, 6 year transportation bill. The bill unanimously passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee makes progress towards building a more equitable formula for distributing Federal transportation funds to the States. It is unfortunate Congress did not have the opportunity to debate this bill during this session of Congress although I look forward to building upon progress made by the committee when the Senate reconvenes in January.

The law which authorizes our Federal transportation program expired on September 30 of this year. Thanks to the competent work of Gov. Fob

James, and Jimmy Butts, the director at the Alabama Department of Transportation, and Don Vaughn, Assistant Transportation Director, I was alerted early on that if Congress failed to act on passing a transportation bill, critical transportation programs such as Interstate Maintenance, the National Highway System, and needed bridge repair throughout Alabama would cease by December. In addition, the Federal Department of Transportation would have been forced to shut its doors and transportation contractors would have been forced to lay off workers as Alabama and many other States curtailed or ceased awarding of transportation maintenance and construction contracts. To avoid this crisis, the Senate has enacted a short term solution to allow transportation projects to continue by providing additional funding and increased flexibility of Federal transportation funds to States.

The temporary transportation resolution passed by the Senate on Tuesday will allow Alabama access to \$174,469,000 for critical highway programs. This amount represents half the amount of Federal highway funds Alabama was able to spend in fiscal year 1997. In addition, the Alabama Department of Transportation will have the flexibility to transfer funds between various transportation programs so that planning, maintenance and expansion can continue as a comprehensive, long-term transportation bill is passed by Congress early next year. Once a new long-term transportation bill is passed, the Secretary of Transportation will offset each State's fiscal year 1998 funding to reflect the funds used by each State as a result of this extension.

Again, I would like to personally thank and congratulate Senator BOND for putting this package together with our leaders of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator CHAFEE, WARNER, and BAUCUS. While many of my colleagues and myself would have preferred a long-term solution to our transportation needs, this short-term extension will allow Alabama and all States to continue their transportation planning, maintenance, and construction until a new, long-term bill is negotiated and passed hopefully early next year.●

YEAR 2000 PROBLEM STILL LOOMING, REQUIRES ACTION

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, as we approach the end of the 1st session of the 105th Congress, I would like to implore the Senate for one final time to consider the urgency of the year 2000 crisis. This matter has been much discussed and reported, but little action has taken place. In fact, the General Accounting Office last week released a report that the Social Security Administration, once thought to be at the fore of the solution, faces a possible crash of several crucial systems dealing with disability determination services.

This report is indicative of the enormity of the problem facing the computer systems of the Federal Government. I introduced S. 22 on the first day of this session to establish a bipartisan national commission to handle this problem—as a civil defense task force would. Try as they might, officials at the Office of Management and Budget simply cannot address the enormity of the task at hand.

Every few days I have attempted to keep my colleagues informed of the latest facets of the problem. On this last day of the first session let me add but one more twist to the immense but manageable problem. If only we would act. In the latest U.S. News and World Report, John Marks reports on the troublesome coincidence of converting to the new European currency at the time of the turn of the century. He writes:

Even before it is introduced on January 1, 1999, the long awaited euro threatens to cost American business \$30 billion or more to buy new software and recode old programs, as companies with interests on the other side of the Atlantic attempt to adapt to the new currency . . . the two problems would seem to be unrelated. But the coincidence in timing—the millennium bug and the currency change arrive within a year of each other—has transformed them into a larger single crisis for many companies.

Thus, international companies are forced to deal with two conversions in the next 2 years; and not surprisingly, experts predict there will be a drought in the supply of consultants who know how to do both.

Again, U.S. News:

Last year, after dire warnings of a technological disaster at the dawn of the new century, companies rushed to hire programmers to save the day. In doing so, they created a labor shortage at a critical moment. Work on both the millennium bug and the euro transition requires knowledge of outdated COBOL computer systems. So all of a sudden, most of the programmers who might be deployed to manage the transition to the euro already have day jobs.

As I have mentioned before on this floor, we must also consider the conversion to the Euro and the labor shortage created over the next few years when we consider the size of the problem at hand.

The year 2000 problem is now fairly well known; the need for action plainly clear. With the legislative year coming to a close, I am hopeful my colleagues will realize this fact in the restful period between now and January 27 and be eager to take action on my bill—S. 22 with 18 copponsors—in the year to come.

I ask that the article "Latest Software Nightmare" from the November 17, 1997, issue of U.S. News and World Report and "Social Security Gets Year 2000 Warning" from the November 5 Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows: