

share in the American Dream. Politics was a noble profession to which a young person could aspire.

One of my biggest honors in being chosen to receive this award is to represent the Big Sky State of Montana. Apparently, John F. Kennedy also was fond of our state. When he addressed the Montana Democratic Convention in 1960, he quoted Thoreau: "Eastward I only go by force. Westward I go free." Then he added, "That is why I have come to Montana."

President's Kennedy's last stop was in Great Falls on September 26, 1963, where he closed his final speech by saying: "This sun in this sky which shines over Montana can be, I believe, the kind of inspiration to us all to recognize what a great single country we have—50 separate states, but one people living here in the United States, building this country and maintaining the watch around the globe. This is the opportunity before us as well as the responsibility."

As I appear before you today in the great state of Massachusetts and in this historical city of Boston, I am proud to be part of these 50 great states. My experience the last five years in dealing with the Montana Freemen has instilled in me a great appreciation for our democratic form of government. Until you have to fight for your government you tend to take it for granted. In 1994 in a small county in Montana with only 1,500 residents and one sheriff and one deputy, our people had to make a decision to take a stand against 30 armed insurrectionists, even though it put their own lives and property at risk. Even with the knowledge of the risks, 80 people signed up to assist law enforcement in whatever was needed to be done to deal with a situation which was rapidly escalating into an armed confrontation. In accepting this award I wish to acknowledge the courage of those 80 people and of the rest of the community which overwhelmingly condemned this movement.

In "Profiles in Courage" I was struck by the stands taken by different people in history which left them alone to fight the battle. Everyone seemed to desert them at one time or another. I never felt completely alone in this struggle. I had the people of Garfield County for support. I had Attorney General Joe Mazurek assisting on behalf of the State of Montana. When times got real bad, I knew I could always call on Senator Max Baucus for help.

The story of Edmund G. Ross who cast the deciding vote in stopping the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson particularly touched me. Ross voted against the impeachment to save the Union against those who wanted to continue the struggles brought on by the Civil War. Years later the Kansas newspapers finally praised the actions of Ross. "By the firmness and courage of Senator Ross, it was said, the country was saved from calamity greater than war, while it consigned him into a political martyrdom, the most cruel in our history. Ross was the victim of a wild flame of intolerance which swept everything before it. He did his duty knowing it meant his political death. It was a brave thing for Ross to do, but Ross did it. He acted for his conscience and with a lofty patriotism, regardless of what he knew must be the ruinous consequences to himself. He was right."

There is a growing wave of intolerance in this country by those groups, which call themselves patriots, militias, constitutionalists, common law courts, posse commitatus, and freemen. Their numbers are estimated at between 5 and 20 million. They appear to be the disenfranchised Americans who believe the government has gotten so corrupt that the only solution is revolution. They were not taken very seriously until the Oklahoma

City bombing. They have not gone away, although their movement has gone more underground. They will be back with the same hate-filled message filled with scapegoats and conspiracy theories for all their problems.

As a prosecutor, I am not sure I did anything in this situation that any other prosecutor in America would not have done. Everyday, all across this country, men and women in law enforcement put their lives on the line to enforce the law, so that the rest of us can live in peace. They are the true unsung heroes.

For many months before the FBI finally came to Garfield County, we tried to devise ways to serve our arrest warrants on fugitives residing in an armed camp. In those meetings, I learned the immense pressure felt by our leaders when they have to send men into harms way. The decision to make any attempt to serve our arrest warrants could result in the death of law enforcement personnel and of those people you previously considered to be your friend and neighbors. Most importantly, you learn that contrary to the television and the movie portrayals, sending armed men into an armed camp almost always results in something going wrong.

I also learned that those in law enforcement who are trained to take these actions are much like you and me. They are married with families, and their biggest desire is to go back to their families. I salute all of the fine men and women in the F.B.I. who came to our aid in Garfield County. I also want us to remember F.B.I. agent Kevin Cramer, who lost his life in an automobile accident on his way to the standoff area. He left behind a wife and two small children and we should not forget that we did have a fatality caused by the standoff.

I want to share this honor with the people of the great state of Montana who have over the past few years had to deal with different types of hate groups in different communities. In almost every case, the communities have come together to condemn the hate-motivated activities. In Billings, we had the wonderful example of a community showing support by placing menorahs in the windows of hundreds of homes after a Jewish family had a brick thrown through their window.

In other parts of Montana, we have had other Freemen-type activity which law enforcement has vigorously prosecuted. Lately, we had a fire set on one of our Hutterite colonies, which has led to condemnation by our Congressman and an intensive criminal investigation.

In Billings, Montana a campaign to deal with hate groups used the message "Not in our Town." In Garfield County, the message our people sent was clear. "Not in our County." In the State of Montana, I am proud to say we have sent a message "Not in our State." I stand before you today in the great state of Massachusetts and say "Not in this Country."

Those groups who look with envious eyes at the vast open spaces of Montana with the idea of making it some type of refuge for white supremacists need to understand: We know about you and your hate-filled ideas. We will expose the truth about you and the truth will defeat you. To the rest of America, let Montana be an example of how hate can be conquered.

Finally I share this award with my wife and children who have had to endure the threats for the past 5 years. They have quietly stood by me and I thank them for that. I am deeply honored to accept this award and hope that I can live up to the ideals behind it each day of the rest of my life.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, June 3, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,496,176,063,717.35 (Five trillion, four hundred ninety-six billion, one hundred seventy-six million, sixty-three thousand, seven hundred seventeen dollars and thirty-five cents).

One year ago, June 3, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,357,051,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-seven billion, fifty-one million).

Five years ago, June 3, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,294,168,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred ninety-four billion, one hundred sixty-eight million).

Ten years ago, June 3, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,573,962,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred seventy-three billion, nine hundred sixty-two million).

Fifteen years ago, June 3, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,313,457,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred thirty-eight billion, four hundred fifty-seven million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,182,719,063,717.35 (Four trillion, one hundred eighty-two billion, seven hundred nineteen million, sixty-three thousand, seven hundred seventeen dollars and thirty-five cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 29TH

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reported for the week ending May 29, that the U.S. imported 8,549,000 barrels of oil each day, an increase of 175,000 barrels a day over the 8,374,000 imported during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 57.2 percent of their needs last week. There are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf War, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians had better give consideration to the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 8,549,000 barrels a day.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.