

In Russia today, there is a growing ultranationalism which represents a major threat to its progress as a democracy, and we must be cognizant of that.

It will take courage for Russia to look to the future positively, to abandon obsolete thinking, to reassess its national security needs and interests in light of new alliances. It will require a high level of determination and hard work by our country to work with Russia to develop these institutions, institutions which can encourage the growth of democracy and free markets and lead to a more stable and cooperative and prosperous new Russia.

But if future generations are to be spared the danger, the expense, and the terror faced by my generation in dealing with Russia, if we are truly to reap the benefits of the end of the cold war, we cannot stand by and wait to see whether democracy and free markets will survive in Russia.

In more concrete terms, I believe that the time is ripe for a full-scale, high-level, new initiative towards Russia as we approach the 21st century.

The Vice President's trip and this September's summit, I hope, will contribute greatly toward this process, but the Senate bears a special responsibility for the conduct of our Nation's foreign policy. We must play a role, too.

This initiative, I believe, should focus on ways in which the United States can work effectively with the new Russia to strengthen and encourage democratization; to support efforts by the IMF and the international community to assist Russia's economy to make the full transition to free markets; to examine and revise outdated legislation which has created roadblocks and bottlenecks in United States-Russian relations and which place United States firms doing business in Russia at a competitive disadvantage; to provide help in the fight against corruption and organized criminal enterprise in Russia; to expedite existing United States resources now available through OPIC, the Eximbank, and other financial institutions through the development of fast-track type programs which cut red tape for worthy business projects and investments; to encourage and expand existing academic, cultural, and other exchange programs, including those between the Congress and the Duma which aim to support Russia's reformers; and, finally, to work to fully integrate Russia as an equal partner in the international political, economic, and security institutions.

We must understand how the right kind of foreign assistance can play a crucial role in assuring Russian economic growth and vitality. And we must understand how our assistance can help create the ability for Russia to consolidate its gains and provide the opportunity for Russia to work out its national identity and destiny in ways which will complement American interests.

None of this will be easy and all of it will require sustained effort. To that end, the Vice President's trip this week is a first major step. And to that end also, I hope to be able to work with the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee of this body to conduct hearings to examine the nature and future direction of United States policy toward Russia. From these hearings I hope we can develop legislation to address United States policy in the areas I have outlined above, and to strengthen United States-Russian ties in an appropriate way.

I deeply believe that this relationship needs the most intensive concern and interaction at the present time. We must give Russia both time and opportunity to consolidate the reforms that constitute the good news of the past few years, to work with them to beat back the forces that threaten this progress, and to assist them to become a stable, prospering, democratic republic which can be a partner for world peace in the next century.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

(The remarks of Mr. CRAIG pertaining to the introduction of S. 2337 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### HONORING THE DRAKES ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. Individuals from strong families contribute to society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken seriously the commitment of "till death us do part", demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Elsie and David Drake of Springfield, Missouri, who on July 26, 1998, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Many things have changed in the 50 years this couple has been married, but the values, principles, and commitment this marriage demonstrates are timeless. As this couple celebrates their 50th year together with family and friends, it will be apparent that the lasting legacy of this marriage will be the time, energy, and resources invested in their children, church, and community. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we celebrate a similar milestone.

The Drakes exemplify the highest commitment to the relentless dedication and sacrifice. Their commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I don't foresee there is any additional morning business to come, so I ask unanimous consent the period for morning business be brought to a close.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2260) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, let me begin to address this issue. I know Senator HOLLINGS is on his way to the floor, the ranking Democrat, who has worked so conscientiously on this, along with his staff and my staff. This is the appropriations bill which covers some very core agencies that the Federal Government has responsibility for, specifically areas of Justice, things like the FBI, the DEA, the INS; areas within Commerce—many areas, of course, are covered by the Commerce Department including, of course, the census issue. Equally important, in fact more important in many ways are ITA and NOAA, two agencies that deal with the manner in which the U.S. economy functions and the manner in which our environment is reviewed. We try to stay ahead of weather conditions.

In addition, this bill has the State Department—obviously the State Department is a core function of the Federal activity—and the judiciary, which is the third branch of the Government, that is also under this bill, along with a number of independent agencies, agencies like the FCC and the FTC and the Small Business Administration. So this is a bill that has broad reach and is a very significant item for the Senate to take up.

This funding bill has been put together as a result of the hard work of a lot of people. I especially thank my ranking member, Senator HOLLINGS, whose input and assistance is always invaluable on this issue. His background and knowledge of the questions which are raised on this bill are extraordinary. I look to him for advice and counsel on many issues. When we agree, we make great progress, which we have on this bill. This bill was reported out of the committee unanimously.