

United States slips into an energy crisis or if our economy falters. Both would set off shock waves that would reverberate around the world. By creating our own integrated policy, we can provide direction for how the world can address the dual challenges of energy and climate change.

Senators MURKOWSKI and BREAUX have introduced a comprehensive energy bill, of which I am an original co-sponsor, that will increase our domestic resources, and increase the use of renewable and alternative fuels. In the last Congress, Senators MURKOWSKI, BYRD, CRAIG, and I had legislation that would dramatically increase funding for the research and development of technologies to provide cleaner energy sources, and to incentivize efforts to reduce or sequester greenhouse gases. We are building upon that legislation and will be reintroducing it soon. It will improve our scientific knowledge and lay out positive steps that we can take now to address climate change.

A forward-looking domestic policy will demonstrate our commitment to this important issue, enhance what we genuinely know about climate change, create more efficient energy sources, include the efforts of our agricultural sector, and have the additional effect of reducing air pollutants.

Mr. President, as I stated earlier, we have an historic opportunity to create policies that will address both our energy and environmental priorities in a way that is not mutually exclusive. Policies that compliment each other and work together. As we enter the 21st century, we face a world that is integrated like never before in history. Just as foreign policy cannot be considered separate from national security or trade policy—energy policy cannot and should not be considered separate from environmental and economic policy. What we do in one policy area has dramatic implications for another—both in our nation and across the globe. Building sound policies for our future requires that we create integrated policies to address the challenges facing America and the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this Sunday is Mother's Day. In an annual tribute as old as the holiday itself, all across America, families will demonstrate just how essential mothers are to the smooth functioning of our families. How will they do this? They

will serve mother breakfast in bed. Youngsters will rise early and attempt to sneak past their sleeping mother to reach the kitchen undetected. And despite the keenness of a mother's hearing—just ask any teenager who has been caught coming in too late how keen it is—a mother's soft heart will keep her breathing even and her eyes gently shut as this stealth attack on her kitchen is made. Toast will be burnt, eggs—well, they will be runny, coffee may be the consistency of tar, and the flowers freshly plucked from the prized beds outside the window may be presented in a juice glass because no one knows in what dark cupboard mother hides her nice vases.

Why are these mealtime disasters met by smiles and nods of recognition? Simply because mothers do their many jobs so well. Day after day, week after week, month after month, the meals get cooked, the dishes done, the laundry folded, the house cleaned up, in a never-ending routine performed by loving, busy, efficient hands—mother's hands. Despite all the changes in American families, it is still the mother, whether or not she also works outside the home, who does most of the household chores. So, when other family members, particularly the younger ones, attempt to take over mom's role for even one meal, their inexperience shows, highlighting in its comedy mom's effortless mastery of her crowded schedule.

Children who do not attempt to serve mother breakfast in bed may instead make reservations for brunch. That's another Mother's Day tradition. And on this day, long distance telephone circuits will be busier than usual. Florists, too, will be working overtime to deliver flowers, just as the postman will have carried more flowery cards and calorie-laden packages of sweets than bills in the leather bag slung over his shoulder.

Mothers deserve far more recognition and far more applause than can be delivered on just one day. Even women who are not mothers in the traditional sense exercise their inborn mothering skills all around us—the co-worker whose desk serves as the office pharmacy for headaches, colds, and just plain sympathy—these coworkers are mothers. The neighbor who picks up the mail and newspapers when we are out of town, and who we know is watching over our house while we are away, these are mothers, really. The woman who feeds stray animals and birds—those women are mothers. Without them, we could not function and society would fray and tear just a bit more.

Even in a world of automated teller machines and on-line banking, one still needs to know how to multiply and divide in one's head to be sure that the bank has not made a mistake in one's account. One still needs to be able to think, to analyze, to cogitate, to compute. It does not all need to be done in some glitzy new way in order to be ef-

fective. There is still a place for the tried and true, even for rote memorization. After all, what child does not learn the alphabet by memorizing the alphabet song? Of course, that simple tune was likely not taught by a teacher in a school but by a mother, perhaps in a nursery, using the same melody line as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

All parents are teachers, by deed as well as by example. When a mother and child bake cookies together, that mother effortlessly includes lessons in mathematics, chemistry, and reading, in addition to teaching order and discipline. And what sweeter way to take those lessons than by reading and following a spotted and time-worn family recipe, measuring out a half of a teaspoon of salt or a tablespoon and a half of vanilla, adding ingredients in the proper order and mixing long enough but not too long, then dropping even rows of dough on a baking sheet and waiting for the edges to crisp and turn brown. Taken separately, flour and egg, spices and chocolate, do not look especially mouth-watering, perhaps. But is there anything more sublime than warm chocolate chip cookies still tender from the oven, washed down with a glass of icy cold milk? "Ah, how sweet it is," and Jackie Gleason used to say. Not when you are 10 years old, I suspect. Perhaps not ever. Those are the lessons, and the memories, that mothers give us every day.

We learn life's essential lessons at our mother's side. They may not be life's greatest lessons, yet they may be. They may not be earth shattering new inventions may result, no cosmos-clarififying theorem be inspired—but they are essential nonetheless. When mothers read stories at night, and when they wash grimy hands and smeared faces, when they nag children to pick up their toys and put away the clean laundry, when they scold children for not sharing with a playmate or for perhaps hitting a playmate, they teach more than reading, more than cleanliness, more than tidiness, more than manners: they teach love. They teach respect for themselves, for oneself, and for others. These are lessons that last a lifetime. They are ingrained. They are what we teach our children. They are how we live our lives. Mothers—they are what make society work. Even as adults, in times of trouble, we may seek solace in a prayer learned in the dim bedrooms of an earlier time, when our mother's voice led us in "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep."

For all that mothers have to do each day, for all the lessons they teach, setting aside one day each year to honor them is but a small down payment on the debt of love and gratitude that we owe. My own angel mother, having died when I was just a year old, left no memories for me.

But to her, that angel mother whose prayers have followed me in all the days of my years, and to the kind

woman, my aunt, who took me to raise as her own, I say on this day: Thank you. Thank you. I know—I know that they hear. They are in heaven today. And to my wife Erma, to whom I shall be married 64 years, 3 weeks from this past Tuesday, she has mothered me, too, my wife Erma, and she has continued my raising since I met her in the schoolyard long ago. To my wife Erma, who raised my two precious daughters to be the strong and resourceful women and mothers that they are, I say a heartfelt, "Thank you!" I have been in good hands, and I am grateful on this Mother's Day and every day. And to all the mothers in America who work so hard each day to keep our lives orderly and well fed, and who remind and nag and scold and coach and encourage and hug and mold their children into happy, loving, responsible people, I say on behalf of all mothers, "Thank you!" "Thank you", mothers.

Mr. President, I would like to close with a poem that I learned a long time ago, and which illustrates nicely that combination of education that mothers provide, both practical and spiritual.

I want to dedicate it to our pages today, these fine young people. They are all juniors in high school. They will be calling their mothers, I will bet.

It is called "A Pinch of This, A Pinch of That."

Have you ever heard that said, "a pinch of this, a pinch of that"?

When Mother used to mix the dough,
Or make a batter long ago;
When I was only table high,
I used to like just standing by
And watching her, for all the while,
She'd sing a little, maybe smile,
And talk to me and tell me—What?
Well, things I never have forgot.
I'd ask her how to make a cake.
"Well, first," she'd say, "Some sugar take
Some butter and an egg or two,
Some flour and milk, you always do,
And then put in, to make it good—"
This part I never understood
And often use to wonder at—
"A pinch of this, a pinch of that."
And then, she'd say, "my little son,
When you grow up, when childhood's done,
And mother may be far away,
Then just remember what I say,
For life's a whole lot like a cake;
Yes, life's a thing you have to make—
Much like a cake, or pie, or bread;
You'll find it so," my Mother said.

I did not understand her then,
But how her words come back again;
Before my eyes my life appears
A life of laughter and of tears,
For both the bitter and the sweet
Have made this life of mine complete—
The things I have, the things I miss,
A pinch of that, a pinch of this.

And, now I think I know the way
To make a life as she would say:
"Put in the wealth to serve your needs,
But don't leave out the lovely deeds;
Put in great things you mean to do,
And don't leave out the good and true.
Put in, whatever you are at,
A pinch of this, a pinch of that."

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I thank the Senator from West Virginia for speaking on behalf of all the Senators and all the people in America.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBERS' PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, in rejecting U.S. membership in the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the strongest voice for freedom in the world has been silenced at and by the United Nations.

Clearly, Members of the United Nations are far more comfortable with a definition of human rights which is agreeable to rogue nations like Libya and Sudan. This is precisely the sentiment which created the International Criminal Court. If the signatories to the Rome Treaty proceed to establish a permanent International Criminal Court, we need an insurance policy against politicized prosecution of American soldiers and officials.

This bill is just that protection, and let me be absolutely clear, the Rome Treaty, if sent to the United States Senate for ratification, will be dead on arrival.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Senate will not ratify this treaty, it is, to my knowledge, the first treaty which would be applicable to the U.S. even without the United States consent. This is, to say the least, an appalling breach of American sovereignty and it will not stand.

But, there will be real consequences if the United States remains silent in the face of this outrage. It is easy to imagine the U.S. or Israel becoming a target of a U.N. witch hunt, with officials or soldiers being sent before judges handpicked by democratic countries.

I am pleased that the able Senator from Georgia, ZELL MILLER, is joining in the introduction of this bill. It will help President Bush signal that the United Nations will have to go back to the drawing board when dealing with war crimes. If any such treaty creating a war crimes court does not include the opportunity for a U.S. veto, I will make certain that the Senate vetoes the treaty.

GUNS AND SUICIDE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week, May 6-12, is National Suicide Prevention Week. Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. This devastating tragedy takes the lives of more than 30,000 Americans each year, and brings suffering and loss to the lives of the friends and family who are left behind. Citing suicide as a

"national public health problem," the U.S. Surgeon General recently announced a national strategy for suicide prevention. Central to the strategy is promoting awareness of the fact that suicide is, indeed, preventable and that we must all do our part to help end this tragedy.

One of the Surgeon General's main goals for preventing suicide is to reduce access to lethal means of suicide of which guns are the most deadly. I commend the Surgeon General for recognizing the need to address the role that guns play in our Nation's staggering suicide rate. Firearms account for 60 percent of all suicides, making them the most commonly used method of suicide and;

Each year more Americans die in suicides by firearms than in murders by firearms. The national suicide prevention strategy recommends a public campaign to reduce the accessibility of lethal means of suicide, including firearms, and urges the gun industry to improve firearm safety design. These aims are backed by evidence that limiting access to lethal means of suicide and self-harm can be an effective strategy to prevent suicide attempts and other self-destructive behaviors. In fact, studies have shown that there is a separate, additional risk of suicide when there is a handgun in the home. Moreover, limiting access to lethal means of suicide, especially handguns, can reduce the number of suicide attempts that are fatal. While more than 650,000 Americans attempt suicide each year, the chance that the attempt will be fatal increases dramatically in those cases where a handgun is used.

The relationship between handguns and suicide is even stronger among young people. Every 46 minutes a young person in this country kills himself or herself, over 60 percent of the time with a firearm. And these numbers are continuing to increase: the youth suicide rate has nearly tripled since 1952, making suicide the third leading cause of death among young people 15 to 24 years of age. There is no question that the increased access young people have to guns has been a major factor in this rise. In fact, one of the most rapidly rising suicide rates in this country is among young African-American makes, increasing 105 percent between 1980 and 1996, and this rise can be attributed almost entirely to suicides by firearms.

The Surgeon General has stated that "we should make it clear that suicide prevention is everybody's business. I believe the Surgeon General is right. Suicide is a national problem that demands our attention and our commitment. Congress should do its part to help prevent suicide by encouraging the manufacture of safer handguns and by closing the loopholes that allow young people easy access to handguns.