

One risk, one error, one mistake, is one too many. But 100 mistakes, proven mistakes, qualifies as a crisis. And a crisis calls for action.

My distinguished colleague and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, has introduced the Innocence Protection Act. This bill would reduce the risk of executing the innocent by allowing for post-conviction DNA testing and establishing certain minimum competency standards for defense counsel. And I support this bill and hope the Senate acts on it without delay.

But I submit that Congress can and must do more. For, if we recognize that the system is broken, that innocent people have been freed based on DNA testing, then it is only logical and right that we suspend executions while these reforms can be implemented and while all steps are taken to conduct a top-to-bottom review of the death penalty system.

My bill would do just that. The National Death Penalty Moratorium Act would create a National Commission on the Death Penalty to review the fairness of the administration of the death penalty at the State and Federal levels. The bill would also suspend executions of Federal inmates and urges the States to do the same, while the commission does its work.

I am pleased that Senators LEVIN, WELLSTONE, CORZINE and DURBIN have joined me as cosponsors of this important legislation.

The expansion of the death penalty and increase in death penalty prosecutions during the last two decades have had literally life-or-death consequences. The people of Illinois have learned a serious lesson that the administration of the death penalty is plagued with errors. And as the events in Arizona just showed us, the people of Illinois are certainly not alone. But Illinois and Arizona account for only 19 of the 100 exonerations nationwide. The remaining 81 mistakes have occurred in other death penalty States. These 100 mistakes tell us, loudly and clearly, that it is past time for our Nation to have a thoughtful debate on capital punishment.

A commission, and pause in executions while the Commission does its work, is the only right and just response.

And, so, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Death Penalty Moratorium Act.

SNOW MACHINES IN NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an issue that is very important to those of us in Wyoming and to all of us who have an interest in national parks; that is, the winter use of snow machines in Yellowstone Park and Grand Teton Park.

As some of my colleagues may know, for a number of years we have had an opportunity in the wintertime for peo-

ple to go into the park, to engage in and tour the park in individual snow machines on a route that has been set forth. Of course, there has been a good deal of talk about it over the last several years and contentious debate over how that should be handled.

Some people believe we should not be in the park at all in the wintertime with snow machines. Others believe it ought to continue as it is.

We ended up about a year ago before the last administration moved out with a rule put into place that in 2 years the individual use of snow machines would be outlawed and eliminated.

That brought about a considerable response, particularly from people who live close to the park and have occasion to use it from time to time. The outcome was that we had an EIS underway. There was a suit brought, and we also passed in the Congress an extension of 1 year so we would have an opportunity for study. That has been underway, a supplemental EIS, to see how that could be handled and what could be done.

Of course, there are at least two primary missions of a national park; that is, to preserve the resource on the one hand, and then to let the owners enjoy it on the other hand. So we have to find some balance between protecting the resource and allowing people to enter the park and use it.

For a number of years, snow machines have been used. I don't think anyone suggests that they continue as they have in the past because there are some impacts both from noise and from exhaust.

One of the things that has changed and can change are improvements made to the machines. Some of them now go to four-cycle engines which are quieter, less exhaust oriented, and have been proven that way. In Jackson, WY, every year they have a contest to see who can improve the machines more. That has been a successful endeavor. We are in the process now of doing that.

I don't think anyone who is realistic suggests that we continue to do it as we have in the past. Certainly, we could apply some rules and regulations: No. 1, manage it; separate the cross-country skiers from the snow machines on the one hand. That can be done. I suspect if it were necessary, you could limit the number of passes that were made available. Sometimes the collection at Old Faithful gets pretty large. Nevertheless, that could be handled.

There have been suggestions that we limit the use in the night when animals are perhaps on the move. One of the arguments is that it distresses and disturbs the buffalo and the elk. I have been through the park with a machine and have ridden from here to the table from a big buffalo who paid no attention to me and had his nose down in about 3 feet of snow pushing along trying to find a little grass. So I suppose there might be instances. But the fact is, they really don't disturb the wildlife.

There has been now a regulation put into place, or an amendment that gives us another year to go through the supplemental EIS which is not yet completed. Then there would be, of course, probably about five alternatives that would be laid out in public. That is supposed to happen in November. We will have an opportunity to make some choices.

I am just saying I hope we can make the changes that will protect the environment, can protect the environment. I am persuaded that can be done. At the same time, I hope we can allow people to continue to enjoy the park. Quite frankly, if you didn't have this opportunity with the snow machine, there would be very little use of the park in wintertime because it is large. And, of course, you can't ski clear across the whole area, or very few people can.

That is in the process. I wanted to say I hope we do keep a couple of things in mind as we deal with our parks and our Federal lands.

One is that, of course, we should take care of the environment. No. 2, people ought to have access to these lands. It is really too bad if we set them aside so that people can't enjoy them and have access to them. Another is to manage it so that it really doesn't have an impact. Much of that is the result of management, and, quite frankly, we have not done as much of that and some of the park officials would rather not have any. So, therefore, they have not made an effort to manage their existence very well.

I hope we proceed on that and come out with a reasonable compromise that still allows access, and we can at the same time take care of the environment, both in Yellowstone and in Grand Teton, as well as other places where snow machines are used.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, with a suicide bomber killing eight innocent Israeli civilians and wounding more than a dozen in Haifa today, and Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers locked in battle in the Jenin refugee camp, the Middle East is under an intolerable siege of violence. The horrific practice of targeting innocent civilians must end. Even in this time of horrendous violence we cannot lose hope.

I spoke at Temple Israel back in Minnesota on Sunday. I was trying to figure out what to say. I remembered the story of an Israeli man murdered at a Seder meal. "Murdered" is the right word. An organ of his was given to save the life of a Palestinian woman. His children said that he would have been proud.

There is hope. We cannot lose hope, for the sake of both the Israeli and the Palestinian children. We have to continue to seek a pathway to peace. President Bush said this in a number of statements.

Last week President Bush made the right decision to send Secretary Powell

to seek a cease-fire and progress toward a political settlement. Over and over again I was saying to Tony Zinni, for some time: We should be there. I think this was the right decision. We can go back and forth about whether it should have been done earlier, but I support the President. I think the President is pursuing a courageous approach which seeks both to meet the critical need of the Israeli people to be free from terrorism and violence and acknowledges the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for their own state.

Even in this horrific time we must not lose sight of what is the ultimate goal: Israel and a new Palestinian state living side by side, in peace, with secure borders.

Secretary Powell is now in Madrid and he will return to the region later today. On Friday he will arrive in Jerusalem. He has the unenviable task of seeking to persuade leaders in the Middle East to take very painful but very necessary steps.

He has been traveling to Arab capitals to persuade Arab leaders to condemn Palestinian suicide bombings and other acts of violence. This was a step they inexcusably refused to take last month in Beirut. Palestinian leaders will only be able to establish their credibility as legitimate diplomatic partners by condemning violence and doing all in their power to combat it.

Secretary Powell is also simultaneously pressing Prime Minister Sharon to immediately withdraw his military from cities in the West Bank and to link a political solution to a cease-fire. This is all so complicated and hard.

Further, I also believe he will and should urge the Prime Minister to respect the dignity and human rights of ordinary, innocent Palestinian civilians, and to address the emerging humanitarian crisis in the West Bank.

Secretary Powell's mission involves great risk, and he himself has said he is unsure he will return to Washington with a cease-fire in hand. This process is not going to be easy and it is not going to be fast. In fact, it will require enormous patience and work by all parties, including a sustained effort by the Bush administration for many months, if not years.

I am grateful for Secretary Powell's efforts. I said to Dick Armitage, in a number of conversations last week, that I support this effort, and I pray for the success of his mission and for a prompt end to the violence which has wracked this region and threatens its future, and I am not at all sure that I am being melodramatic when I say perhaps the future of the world.

I apologize to my colleague from New Mexico. I now will speak to the amendment, but I really believe—as a Senator, as a first-generation American, as the son of a Jewish immigrant who fled persecution from Ukraine—that it was important to speak on this matter.

I think when we speak, you are not going to hear any acrimonious debate.

There are different ideas about what needs to be done. It is not as if we can take what is happening in the Middle East and put it in parentheses.

I also will tell you that I was impressed—I hope people do not mind my saying this—at Israel Temple. I was relieved there was very little shrillness. People are feeling tremendous anguish and pain and are wanting to come together as a community.

Recently, I met with an Israeli man and a Palestinian father—two fathers, both of whom lost children. They came here, and I want them to come back. Rabbi Sapperstein called the office and said: I would like for you to meet with them. They have formed a parent organization—parents who have lost their loved ones and who are saying we have to somehow figure out how to move from where we are to some kind of a framework for peace. How wide of a river of blood has to be spilled before we do that? I believe as long as there are “leaders” like that, there is hope.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I am here today with my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Minnesota. It is a very special and exciting occasion for us to talk about three national championship teams in Minnesota: the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers hockey team won the men's national championship for the first time in 23 years last Saturday night. It was one in which over 19,000 fans in St. Paul's Excel Center were able to enjoy. I think about 19,002 of them were Minnesota fans. But the University of Maine put on a spirited contest.

We are very fortunate that the one North Dakotan on the team, a non-Minnesotan, scored the winning goal in overtime to lead Minnesota to the national championship.

Also, we are delighted that the University of Minnesota Duluth women's hockey team was also in the national championship for the second consecutive year—the only winner of that tournament—which has now been held for 2 years—in the history of this country. We are very proud of their accomplishment as well.

We are ideally constituted because I am a hockey player from high school and college, and my distinguished colleague is a member of the Wrestling Hall of Fame in the United States. So he is going to carry on the honors for the next resolution. I yield the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will be very brief. Senator DAYTON talked about the men's hockey team, the University of Minnesota, the Gophers winning the NCAA championship which, as my colleague said, I think was the first time in 23 years; then the University of Minnesota Duluth, second straight year; and then the University of Minnesota wrestling team also won the NCAA championship for the second straight year as well.

Senator DAYTON and I will have a chance to send those resolutions back home. We want to congratulate everybody. I think everybody in Minnesota is very proud of these three teams. In one winter, there were three NCAA championships: men's hockey, women's hockey, and wrestling.

I say to Senator DAYTON, I actually do have a 5-hour speech I want to give about the importance of wrestling, but I will not do it tonight.

REVIVAL OF THE ANCIENT LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, on April 23, in Alexandria, Egypt, the Library of Alexandria (Bibliotheca Alexandrina) will be formally and joyfully inaugurated. This is a signal event in the history of world culture. The new library has been built on the site of the ancient Library of Alexandria, not in imitation of its renowned predecessor but rather, as its first Chief Librarian, Dr. Ismail Seragaldin, has observed, to recapture the spirit and emulate the ideals, scholarship and research of the Ancient Library. It is also, significantly, the first major library to open anywhere in the world in the third millennium.

From the time of its establishment in the 4th century B.C.E. until its destruction by fire some 1,600 years ago, the Ancient Library stood as a preeminent center of learning. It brought together the Pharaonic and Hellenistic cultures, reflecting and reinforcing Egypt's pivotal role as a cradle of civilization. Alexandria was a magnificent city, a great center of both commerce and intellectual endeavor, and the library was its anchor indeed, the library was emblematic of the city. With its collection of some 700,000 manuscripts and its phalanx of scholars, Euclid and Archimedes among them, it was also, effectively, the world's first university. And although the library was lost many centuries ago, it has remained a lustrous symbol of scholarship and intellectual inquiry.

A clear and steady vision, intense dedication, and many years of planning and hard work have brought the new library into being. In 1990, under the leadership of Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, a group of distinguished men and women from many different countries came together to sign the Aswan Declaration for the Revival of the Ancient Library of Alexandria, which proclaimed the Library's mission to be, in part, to “bear witness to an original undertaking that, in embracing the totality and diversity of human experience, became the matrix for a new spirit of critical inquiry, for a heightened perception of knowledge as a collaborative process.” Now, 12 years after the signing of the Aswan Declaration, the modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a reality. It will provide scholars and researchers with unique collections and facilities focusing on the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Alexandria as well as on contemporary subjects. It will