

1980 he returned to Ole Miss to be the writer in residence. His class room has been described like being at an Ole Miss v. LSU football game, because the students were always so excited.

Mr. President, Mr. Morris has been described as being "a prolific author in his own life, defining moments of intimacy and compassion."

David Sansing, a retired University of Mississippi historian said this about Mr. Morris, "Willie was such an honest voice, clear, vivid, never ambiguous. He had to leave the South to really confirm his own Southernness. But of course, he came back."

Willie Morris's writing undoubtedly had a grave impact on the lives of Mississippians and Southerners alike. He is survived by his wife, JoAnne Prichard of Jackson, and his son David Rae of New Orleans.

BUILDING SAFE SCHOOLS AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: THE WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, stacks of spiral-bound notebooks and reams of paper, boxes of pencils and pens, lunch boxes and backpacks, are all making their way onto store shelves across the Nation as summer limps toward its hot, dry conclusion and the warm, crisp promise of autumn days, yellow school buses, and children walking to school closes in on us. A new school year is upon us, with all its bright potential for learning. Most students welcome the chance to see their friends again, and to again immerse themselves in the business of learning and growing. But sadly, some children are afraid to go to school. Some children must face and conquer the memories of sudden, violent death that have visited their schools in recent years.

Mr. President, in the wake of the senseless atrocities that have ripped at the traditional calm of schools across the country, it has become increasingly evident that we must work together here in Congress, and with our state governments, to prevent this kind of terrible tragedy from striking yet another American schoolyard. I am pleased to have recently joined with Senators LIEBERMAN and MCCAIN in authoring legislation to create a National Commission on Youth Violence, which has been included in the Senate-passed juvenile justice legislation.

With the new school year just around the corner, it seems an opportune time to refocus our energies on the work underway in each of our respective states, and to help the states craft even more effective prevention strategies for the upcoming academic year. And similarly, the states will serve as an invaluable resource for helping us to better strategize on federal solutions necessary for restoring peace and tranquility to our nation's schools. If we hope to have a school year free from

the violence and emotional grief that rocked our nation last year, an equal exchange and dialogue is truly in order.

Given the most serious nature of the challenge we face, it is important that we bring together a wide range of experts to seek solutions to school violence. In this vein, I am pleased, today, to announce my cosponsorship with West Virginia University of a day-long symposium on safe schools and communities. From representatives of the West Virginia State Police, to parents, students, and the church community, the symposium participants will focus on efforts already underway throughout the state to combat school violence, and what more needs to be done to better protect our teachers and students from classroom violence. I hope that this event will give participants the opportunity to highlight the progress that has already been made in school safety, while also helping to create a guide for what still needs to be accomplished. West Virginia University, with its wealth of research and expertise, is the ideal forum for this event, and I feel confident that its contribution in behalf of the higher education community will further strengthen this ongoing dialogue throughout the state.

A school ought to be a place where students thrive on learning for learning's sake alone, and where teachers find true pleasure in explaining the details of the battle at Antietam or the Pythagorean theorem. It ought to be a place where students can frolic in the school playground with classmates during recess without a worry in the world. Mr. President, the events of the recent past work against this vision.

It is my hope that this symposium will provide West Virginians with an opportunity to look for ways to prevent such violence from occurring in West Virginia schools. By bringing together West Virginia parents, educators, students, law enforcement officials, policy makers, and a variety of other experts to examine school- and community-based strategies to reduce youth violence, we, collectively, will bring greater clarity and wisdom to this troubling issue, both at the state and federal levels.

As students and teachers prepare for another school year, we need to reflect on the violence that has taken place in so many other communities, and look for ways to prevent such violence from occurring in West Virginia schools. Through this symposium, it is my hope that we will take the time to find the strength to reach across the lines that serve to divide us and touch the common spirit that the Creator instilled in each of us. It is long past time for us to work together on common ground to achieve common dreams.

TIME TO SUPPORT CTBT RATIFICATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to urge Senate consideration of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, CTBT. As Ranking Member of the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services, I believe that ratification of the CTBT would enhance our nation's security for several reasons.

It imposes a verifiable ban on all nuclear weapons testing, conducted anywhere, at any time; it takes a proactive step towards ending the threat of nuclear tests conducted by rogue nations attempting to develop nuclear weapons; and it demonstrates the United States' commitment to a safer and more secure future free from radioactive fallout produced by nuclear explosions. Implementing the CTBT does not preclude improving our nuclear weapons. The United States will be able to maintain a sophisticated and viable arsenal without conducting dangerous nuclear tests.

In the last decade, the most frequently cited argument against a test ban has been the claim that continued testing is necessary to ensure that stockpiled weapons are reliable; that is, they will detonate as planned and that the yield and effects will meet design specifications. Even test ban critics acknowledge that reliability stockpile testing has been mainly non-nuclear.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Robert Baker, former Deputy Assistant Director for Verification and Intelligence at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, ACDA, said, "[they] do not routinely go out and take nuclear weapons out of the stockpile and test them." Other weapons designers have testified that nuclear tests simulations on high-performance computers are adequate substitutes for nuclear explosions and can provide accurate data on warhead viability.

The purpose of testing existing weapons has not been to detect unforeseen problems but rather to check on particular problems identified through the non-nuclear inspection and simulation program. With very rare exceptions, the tested weapons were performed in the desired manner. In fact, only one stockpile confidence test performed between 1979 and 1986 revealed a problem needing correction. The reason that any nuclear reliability testing of stockpiled weapons has been necessary in the past is that some older types of nuclear designs were originally put into the stockpile without the stringent production verification tests now standard. Our stockpile stewardship program enables the United States to meet the requirements for a treaty banning all types of nuclear testing while simultaneously maintaining a viable nuclear arsenal.