

But we know, as the Rev. Kyle Maxwell so eloquently stated Monday, that "suffering got us here (through the crucifixion of Christ on the Cross)."

Let's not "try to make sense out of the senseless crime," Maxwell said.

"The 'why?' of it is that God created us to be free. Sometimes that's too heavy a burden for some people." He has given us the freedom to be compassionate and the freedom to take another's life, Maxwell said.

I believe that Christians are to be people of grace and of forgiveness. We are as sinful as the people who took Paul's life. In this case, society places consequences on those sins acted out. But, Jesus said that any sin is just as deadly, even if it is, unspoken and remains in the heart.

You are to forgive, for if you don't, anger will literally eat away any energy or beauty that Paul may have placed in your hearts.

That's what it's all about. Grace. And if you are not at that point to forgive in your journey, say so. Make a commitment to try.

The families of those in jail who are on this side of heaven and going through a worldly hell need your prayers.

I believe Paul would have been right there, leading the prayer service for those sinners like himself. He has experienced his own private hell and knew from whence they came.●

50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANN GULCH FIRE

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a significant, but often overlooked historical event in our nation's past—Montana's Mann Gulch Fire which occurred 50 years ago today. This event continues to capture the nation's attention because thirteen brave, young men died fighting this fire. LIFE Magazine ran a big story shortly after this fire. In 1952, Hollywood made a movie about this unfortunate disaster called "Red Skies of Montana." And Norman Maclean, who wrote the famous book "A River Runs Through It", wrote a haunting best-seller entitled "Young Men and Fire" in 1992. But even more remarkable, this single event marked a turning point in the way the federal government fights wildland fires.

It was a hot summer day in August 1949, not unlike what we have recently experienced, when a Forest Service Fire Guard, James Harrison, reported a small fire in a little, funnel-shaped gulch along the Missouri River. The temperature was 97 degrees with a light wind from the north and east. The fire was located 20 miles north of Helena, Montana in a roadless area called the Gates of the Mountain. Parachuting 15 smokejumpers was decided to be the best approach to reach this remote area quickly to control this relatively ordinary fire.

Once on the ground, the smokejumpers joined the Forest Service Fire Guard to fight the fire. As they moved down the gulch toward the Missouri River, the wind quickly shifted from the south, funneling a strong wind up the gulch. As they got near the Missouri River, a wall of fire blocked

their access to the river. The fire was getting hotter and swiftly moving up the gulch. Retreating back was their only solution, however, it was a hard hike back up the steep rocky slope of the gulch. As the firefighters retreated, dropping their equipment, a 30 foot wall of fire raced toward them and eventually overcame them.

In the end, only three firefighters survived—Wagner "Wag" Dodge, Walter Rumsey, and Robert Sallee. Thirteen firefighters died as a testament to the power of a fire "blow up" which had raced down and back up the slopes of Mann Gulch faster than men could travel. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to name those thirteen brave young men who lost their lives that day—Robert Bennett, Eldon Diettert, James Harrison, William Hellman, Philip McVey, David Navon, Leonard Piper, Stanley Reba, Marvin Sherman, Joseph Sylvia, Henry Thol, Jr., Newton Thompson, and Silas Thompson.

This tragic loss 50 years ago, however, should not be remembered only in a somber way. We should remember the many positive changes that have come from this disaster. After investigating the Mann Gulch Fire, the federal government made a stronger investment in fighting wildland fires. For example, in 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower personally opened the Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula, Montana. Understanding how wildland fires behave and how to best fight them also increased with the opening of research laboratories in Missoula, Montana and Macon, Georgia. Development of new techniques, such as "safety zones" and new technologies, such as reflective "fire shelters," were made to increase the protection of fire fighters in the midst of a fire. These changes were made in large measure due to the sacrifice these thirteen brave men made on August 5, 1949.

There is one last step that needs to be taken. Congress needs to address some of the problems in maintaining the high quality of our nation's fire fighting crews. Yesterday I introduced legislation which will do that. I trust my colleagues will join with me in supporting this bill to ensure its passage. What could be a more fitting tribute to all the brave men and women who have lost their lives fighting wildland fires than to enact legislation this year to strengthen the quality of our nation's firefighting crews.

Mr. President, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring these brave men for their dedication, sacrifice, and contributions to protect America from wildland fires. To these men who revered honor and honored duty, we salute them.●

TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BRING HOPE TO NATIVE PEOPLE

● Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I want to express my support for the 31 Tribal Colleges and Universities that provide hope to America's Native communities. The Tribal College movement began some 30 years ago and has a proven track record of success as an integral, viable part of Native American communities.

I believe the Tribal Colleges are the nation's best kept secrets in higher education, and it saddens me to report that the Tribal Colleges are the nation's most underfunded institutions in higher education.

In comparison to the mainstream community colleges and universities system, the Tribal College movement is still in its infancy. Over a 30 year period, Tribal Colleges have managed to change the social landscape of Indian country, operating on a shoe-string budget while maintaining full national collegiate accreditation standards.

Tribal Colleges currently operate on a budget of forty percent less than what mainstream community colleges receive from government sources. This is a remarkable feat. Tribal Colleges continue to survive despite these and other difficulties such as problems in the recruitment and retention of faculty due to remote locations and inability to offer competitive salaries.

Unlike other schools, Tribal Colleges do not receive automatic state funding for non-Indian students since they are located on Indian trust lands even though they provide GED, remedial and adult literacy programs for all students, and also doubling as community, cultural and child centers.

Enrollment numbers exceed approximately 26,000 students being served, with growth rate averages of approximately eight percent per year. With this growth rate, these institutions must have adequate funding to meet the growing demands being placed on these tribal educational hubs.

Tribal Colleges are experiencing an enrollment boom and with steady level-funding, will actually see the quality of services deteriorate. I am supportive of efforts to find and provide additional funds for Tribal Colleges as are many of my colleagues.

Studies have shown that Tribal Colleges significantly decrease employment rates, substance abuse and teen pregnancy in some of the nation's poorest communities. More than forty percent of students who attend Tribal Colleges transfer to four-year institutions, and a majority of them return to assist their reservations after receiving their degrees.

I would like to cite two examples of many success stories of the positive impact of the Tribal Colleges:

Justin Finkbonner of the Lummi Nation graduated from Northwest Indian

College in Bellingham, Washington with an Associate Arts Degree. Justin continued his education by transferring to complete a four-year Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Policy from the Huxley College of Environmental Studies at Western Washington University. Currently, he is serving as Morris K. Udall Foundation Native American Congressional Fellow this summer on Capitol Hill experiencing the legislative process with the intention to return to the Lummi Nation, help his people and one day achieve his goal of becoming a tribal leader.

In his own words,

The Northwest Indian College offered an academic setting and curriculum that no other mainstream institution could offer. For example, one would not receive Lummi tribal history and Lummi language classes at their college, plus the individual attention from faculty and staff to ensure my success. These key differences from mainstream colleges and universities still influence me to this day to aspire to achieve my goals. I had never had that much encouragement and support from this many people to show me that they care about me and my future. I owe a great deal to the Tribal Colleges.

Another success story: Julie Jefferson of the Nooksack tribe, forty-five years old, a wife, a mother of three, a grandmother of five—she has worked at the Northwest Indian College for twelve years as an Administrative Assistant for Instructional Services. She is currently a full-time college employee working her way through her academic pursuits. While working in full capacity, she has managed to complete a two year Associate Arts Degree and still currently working while pursuing a four-year Bachelor's Degree in Human Services at the Woodring College of Education at Western Washington University in Washington State. Ms. Jefferson expects to graduate in the Spring of 2000 with goals to continue her education pursuing a Master's Degree. She is a classic example of the tribal student profile of being a non-traditional female student with dependents from a nearby surrounding community.

Of the 31 Tribal Colleges, two offer Master's Degree programs, four offer Bachelor Degree Programs and many are in the process of developing four-year degree programs cooperatively with nearby mainstream institutions. Tribal Colleges are awarding more than 1,000 Associate Degrees each year, and these Degrees represent nineteen percent of all Associate Degrees awarded to American Indians. This is an impressive figure considering the Tribal Colleges enroll only about seven percent of all American Indian students.

In Academic Year 1996-1997 the Tribal Colleges awarded: 1,016 Associate Degrees, 88 Bachelor Degrees and 7 Masters Degrees. In Academic Year 1995-1996: 1,024 Associate Degrees, 57 Bachelor Degrees and 7 Masters Degrees were awarded. Obviously, these statis-

tics from the National Center for Education solidifies the success of the Tribal College movement by producing graduates—future, productive members of their communities and of society.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude my statement with a quote from one of two special reports produced by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching titled, "Tribal Colleges: Shaping the Future of Native America". I, again want to reinforce my support of this nation's 31 Tribal Colleges and to encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to offer their support along with me:

Tribal Colleges offer hope. They can, with adequate support, continue to open doors of opportunity to the coming generations and help Native American communities bring together a cohesive society, one that draws inspiration from the past in order to shape a creative, inspired vision of the future. •

CONGRATULATING ANDREW ROTHERHAM

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to congratulate Andrew Rotherham on his new position in the White House as the Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy. Mr. Rotherham was formerly the director of the 21st Century Schools Project at the Progressive Policy Institute, the think tank of the Democratic Leadership Council. Mr. Rotherham has in the past worked closely with my staff on education issues, and I want to wish him success in his new endeavor.

Mr. Rotherham's appointment also may create an opportunity for the Administration to reform its positions on education. Recently, the House passed the Teacher Empowerment Act in a bipartisan fashion, 239-185. I had the opportunity to participate in a press conference earlier this week at which Senator GREGG unveiled a slightly different Senate version of the Teacher Empowerment Act. Unfortunately, the President has signaled his intention to veto this legislation because it does not explicitly authorize his Class Size Reduction program. I recommend and hope that the President will learn what Mr. Rotherham has said recently about that proposal.

In his position at the Progressive Policy Institute, Mr. Rotherham wrote *Toward Performance-Based Federal Education Funding—Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, a policy paper that in part touched on the merits of the President's class size reduction program and the issue of local control of education decisions. In a section of this paper entitled *Teacher Quality, Class Size, and Student Achievement*, he has this to say about the class size reduction program,

Now a part of Title VI of ESEA, President Clinton's \$1.2 billion class-size reduction initiative, passed in 1998, illustrates Washington's obsession with means at the expense of

results and also the triumph of symbolism over sound policy. The goal of raising student achievement is reasonable and essential; however, mandating localities do it by reducing class sizes precludes local decision-making and unnecessarily involves Washington in local affairs.

Mr. Rotherham goes on to state,

During the debate on the Clinton class-size proposal, it was correctly pointed out that research indicates that teacher quality is a more important variable in student achievement than class size. In fact, this crucial finding was even buried in the U.S. Department of Education's own literature on the issue. The Committee on the Prevention of Reading Difficulty in Young Children stated, "[Although] the quantity and quality of teacher-student interactions are necessarily limited by large class size, best instructional practices are not guaranteed by small class size." In fact, one study of 1000 school districts found that every dollar spent on more highly qualified teachers "netted greater improvements in student achievement than did any other use of school resources." Yet despite this, the class-size initiative allows only 15 percent of the \$1.2 billion appropriation to be spent on professional development. Instead of allowing states and localities flexibility to address their own particular circumstances, Washington created a one-size-fits all approach.

Mr. Rotherham ends this section of the paper by asking the following insightful question,

Considering the crucial importance of teacher quality, the current shortage of qualified teachers, and the fact that class-size is not a universal problem throughout the country, shouldn't states and localities have the option of using more than 15 percent of this funding on professional development?

I am hopeful that Mr. Rotherham will prevail upon President Clinton to work with Congress to pass education reform legislation that allows states and local communities the flexibility they need to provide a quality education for all children, while ensuring that they are held accountable for the results of the education they provide. As Mr. Rotherham states, the federal government should not concentrate on "... means at the expense of results ...", and should not allow "... the triumph of symbolism over sound policy," which the President's class size reduction program represents.

My best wishes go out to Mr. Rotherham, and it is my sincere hope that he will be able to have some influence with this administration and that he is able to convince them that Washington does not know best. It's time we put children first, and change the emphasis of the federal government from process and paperwork to kids and learning.

I ask to print in the RECORD the section from Mr. Rotherham's report that discusses his views on the administration's class size initiative.

The material follows: