

James B. McMillan's life truly was a reflection of a valiant, idealistic, and nonviolent struggle for equality. His lifeworks have opened doors for many blacks in the United States and will continue to be an inspiration for all who are engaged in the race for equality.

This U.S. Senator is a better person because of the efforts of Dr. McMillan. Nevada is a better state because of Dr. McMillan's refusal to accept the status quo and his lifelong dedication in the struggle for equality.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, April 23, 1999, the federal debt stood at \$5,586,140,738,923.35 (Five trillion, five hundred eighty-six billion, one hundred forty million, seven hundred thirty-eight thousand, nine hundred twenty-three dollars and thirty-five cents).

One year ago, April 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,501,159,000,000 (Five trillion, five hundred one billion, one hundred fifty-nine million).

Fifteen years ago, April 23, 1984, the federal debt stood at \$1,486,568,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-six billion, five hundred sixty-eight million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 23, 1974, the federal debt stood at \$471,225,000,000 (Four hundred seventy-one billion, two hundred twenty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,114,915,738,923.35 (Five trillion, one hundred fourteen billion, nine hundred fifteen million, seven hundred thirty-eight thousand, nine hundred twenty-three dollars and thirty-five cents) during the past 25 years.

THE INNOCENT VICTIMS AT COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, last Wednesday, I came to the floor of the Senate to thank my colleagues who offered their sympathies for the victims and their families involved in the tragic shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. I also wanted the people in Colorado to know that our hearts in the United States Senate were with all of the families through this terrible and tragic time.

Since then, the victims have been identified. Today, it is with deep sadness that I include for the RECORD the names of the innocent victims at Columbine High School. I believe it is a fitting tribute for the United States Senate to recognize these 12 students and one teacher who lost their lives in such an unthinkable way.

Cassie Bernall, Steven Curnow, Corey De Pooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Daniel Mauser, Daniel Rohrbough, William "Dave" Sanders, Rachel Scott, Isaiah Shoels, John Tomlin, Lauren Townsend, Kyle Velasquez.

PARENTS ABDICATE; FAITH IS ABANDONED

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I had tried numerous times without success during the weekend to reach by telephone a remarkable young mother whom I had never met. I learned about her while reading a newspaper back home in North Carolina that published on April 23 what is most often referred to these days as an "op-ed" piece headed, "Parents Abdicate; Faith Is Abandoned".

(An op-ed piece, of course, is the short-form identification of an article published on the page opposite a newspaper's editorial page.)

The op-ed piece which so impressed me was authored by Mrs. Ashley Ethridge of Mebane, N.C., a former school teacher who decided to spend her time raising her two little girls. (She and her husband are expecting a third child later this year).

I mentioned at the outset my having tried for much of the weekend to reach Mrs. Ethridge by telephone. Sunday afternoon those efforts were successful—and I must say, Mr. President, that my conversation with Mrs. Ethridge could not have been more meaningful.

Senators who read her "op-ed" piece will agree, I think, that this lady is a gifted writer. She is a graduate of N.C. State University and she has completed graduate work. She is excitingly profound in her analysis of what ails America in our time.

I must confess that I myself have long been alarmed by America's drift away from the moral and spiritual principles and priorities upon which our nation was founded more than two centuries ago. Many of my generation often lament the trend. But Mrs. Ethridge has diagnosed the moral malady better than I, and she offers the prescription to turn the nation's direction around more precisely, more specifically than I ever have.

Mr. President, I don't often do this but in the case of my remarks today, and Mrs. Ethridge's clarity and counsel, I shall urge my fellow Senators to read what this young mother in Mebane, North Carolina, feels that all of us ought to consider.

So I am glad that I tried, one more time, Sunday afternoon to reach Mrs. Ethridge. It was a blessing to hear her voice and to sense her understanding of the course America simply must take—now.

So, Mr. President, I say to Ashley Ethridge: God bless you for the clarity of your wake-up call to the most fortunate people on earth—we citizens of the United States of America. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of Ashley Ethridge's observations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PARENTS ABDICATE; FAITH IS ABANDONED (By Ashley Ethridge)

Is it just me, or has the entire country gone completely mad?

In recent editions of the newspaper I have learned that it is good fun when sexually explicit and violent Marilyn Manson shock-rock concerts attract swarms of young adolescent boys—presumably sans parents—cheering Satan; that magazines for teenage girls are emblazoned with headlines such as "How To Totally Turn Him On"; and that parents are paying \$800 a month to put infants in institutionalized day care while the mummies and daddies keep tabs on baby's milestones via surveillance camera. People frown upon giving a 3-year-old a doughnut, but don't even flinch at giving birth control pills to a young teen suspected of having sex.

Nickelodeon (remember, the network just for kids—no adults allowed?) is now changing the entire slant of its programming because its executives have discovered that children now, more than anything else, wish for time with their parents.

In the wake of the Littleton, Colo., massacre, Wake County's school superintendent, Jim Surratt, asked what kind of sick society would produce people who would want to do that kind of thing. I find the answers to Surratt's question in my newspaper almost every morning.

In his response to the tragedy, President Clinton said that perhaps now America will wake up to the dimensions of the challenge of juvenile violence. I can only assume that he is implying a need for more programs, courtesy of the government and thus the taxpayers. More counseling, more day care, more before-school care, more after-school care, more gun control and of course more counselors and mediators in the schools.

I too hope America will wake up—wake up to the fact that children need more parental love and guidance.

The parents who blame the media and other outside influences for teen violence should be diligent in shielding their children from the offending sources. Where are these parents when their under-17-year-olds are filling the theaters of the many R-rated teen flicks now playing? Where are these parents when their children are wading through the murky waters of the Internet? Where are these parents when their children are buying music bearing Parental Advisory warning labels? Where are these parents when their children are watching questionable—at best—prime time television shows?

How can parents remove themselves almost completely from their children's lives and then blame "Dawson's Creek" when their daughters become pregnant or Leo DiCaprio when their sons become violent?

Clinton also says that the nation must search for answers. This is absurd, and yet is also precisely the problem. The answer is obvious for anyone who will see it. Unfortunately, we are so ensconced in our spiritually empty, materialistic, self-centered lives that we do not seem to care that we are sacrificing our children. We applaud Clinton's initiative to fund more studies so that experts can search for answers because it lifts the burden from our pathetic shoulders.

Why is it that so few people seem to believe that parents have a responsibility to raise their own children, to spend time with them, to help them, teach them and nurture them toward a happy, productive adulthood? Parenting has now simply become a process of buying children anything they want, including guardians and homework-helpers, for as long as they want—often well into what should be adulthood.