

country and the protection of our most basic freedoms. It is critical that we reaffirm our knowledge of these events to preserve, in Madison's own words, ". . . that veneration which time bestows on everything, and without which perhaps the wisest and freest governments would not possess the requisite stability."

Those words can be found in the Federalist No. 49, by James Madison.

In closing, let me refer back to something I said earlier when I said that it is not enough that democratic republics are founded on the consent of the people; they are absolutely dependent upon the active and informed involvement of the people.

In this regard, the American people will shortly be called upon to be involved. There is a national election coming. Elections will occur in every State. I think it is very appropriate, if I may, to state those words again.

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It is a disgrace, if we look at the record of the voter turnout in this country, the American people, it seems to me, are less and less involved when it comes to voting. Fewer and fewer of the people exercise this right—this duty. This is a foremost duty of Amer-

ican citizenship. Fewer people are involved.

I close with this reference to history.

In 1776, in September, George Washington asked for a volunteer to go behind the British lines and draw pictures and develop information with respect to the placement of the British guns, their breastworks, their fortifications, and to bring that information back to the American lines. A young man by the name of Nathan Hale responded to the call. He was a schoolteacher. He went behind the British lines. This was an exceedingly dangerous assignment.

Nathan Hale achieved his purpose, but on the night before he was to return to the American lines, he was discovered by the British to be an American spy. The papers, the drawings, were upon his person. The next morning, September 22, 1776—224 years ago today—he stood before the hastily built gallows. He saw just before him the crude wooden coffin in which his body would soon be laid. He asked for a Bible. The request was denied. Whether or not the British at that point had a Bible near, we don't know. But there he stood with his hands tied behind him.

The British commander, whose name was Cunningham, asked Hale if he had anything to say. His last words, which are remembered by every schoolchild

in America who has had the opportunity to read American history, were these: I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.

The British commander said: "String the rebel up".

Nathan Hale gave his one life for his country.

My final question is this: If Nathan Hale was willing to give his only life—all he had—for his country, why is every American, Republican or Democrat or Independent, not willing to give his one vote for his country?

I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 12 noon, Monday, September 25, 2000.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1 p.m., recessed until Monday, September 25, 2000, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 22, 2000:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mary Lou Leary, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Laurie O. Robinson, resigned.