

use in the context of implementation of the Good Friday accords, those very accords which George Mitchell of Maine, the former majority leader, was so instrumental in bringing about. It would seem to me that the decision by David Trimble to press members of the Ulster Unionist Party to rejoin the Northern Ireland Assembly has been vindicated by recent events. I commend David Trimble, as well.

Despite numerous setbacks that have occurred from time to time with respect to the full implementation of the 1998 accords, Prime Minister Tony Blair, and the Prime Minister of Ireland, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, and President Bill Clinton have never lost faith in the process.

By the way, people like Albert Reynolds and Bertie Ahern deserve great credit, as do David Trimble, Gerry Adams, John Hume, and Martin McGuinness, who have done a magnificent job in bringing this about. There are so many people who have been part of the effort to achieve what I think we are on the brink of achieving here. The events over the weekend demonstrate that their faith is not misplaced. They deserve great credit for not losing faith.

I, too, have remained optimistic that peace is possible. That is because I believe the people of Northern Ireland are anxious to put this long and very painful conflict behind them. Indeed, before the February setback over decommissioning, which caused key provisions of the peace accords to be suspended, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the executive had been functioning. The reactivation of the assembly late last month has once again restored self-government in Belfast. The international inspections of weapons caches together with the renewal of discussions between the IRA and the International Commission on Decommissioning are giant steps toward the full decommissioning of weapons throughout Northern Ireland.

The IRA has historically held itself out as the guardian of the Catholic minority—a minority that has experienced decades of inequality and injustice at the hands of a Unionist or Protestant majority. Paradoxically, the IRA has sought to promote justice and equality for the Catholic community through violence and other terrorist acts against the police and the Protestant majority.

The Good Friday accords acknowledge past inequalities and injustices and, at the same time, establish a framework for resolving these inequities through the political process. There are now strong indications that the IRA is prepared to work within that framework to achieve its objectives.

The IRA's willingness to permit international inspections of its weapons is further proof that it is within

the realm of possibility to remove the bomb and the bullet from Irish politics once and for all. It is my fervent hope that these independent inspections will reduce the feelings of mistrust that have historically plagued relations between the Nationalist and Unionist communities and their political leaders and allow further progress to be made toward implementing other important provisions of the accords, especially those related to police reform.

Each side has taken positive steps to meet the letter and spirit of the Good Friday Accords. Having said that, there is much that remains to be done to achieve other equally important objectives of the accords, particularly the guarantee of justice and equality for all of the people of Northern Ireland—Protestants and Catholics. Toward that end, I would urge the British government to move forward expeditiously to implement the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland, the so called Patten Commission. Creating a police force that is professional, impartial, and representative of the community it serves, as called for by the Patten Commission, is the only way to guarantee justice and equal treatment for all.

Since the parties first embarked on the road to resolving Northern Ireland's "Troubles" in 1994, there have been steps forward and there have been steps back—sometimes it has seemed more of the latter than the former. The latest actions by the IRA set the stage for a new chapter in the history of Northern Ireland—a chapter of peace and reconciliation between the communities of Northern Ireland, as embodied in the letter and spirit of the 1998 Good Friday Accords. I strongly urge Northern Ireland's political leaders to take to heart the significant progress toward peace that has been achieved in recent weeks—to draw from that progress renewed energy. And, to find the capacity to set aside mistrust, allow deep-seated wounds to heal, and proceed together to make justice and equality a reality for all the people of Northern Ireland.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield, without losing his right to the floor?

Mr. DODD. I am happy to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have listened to the Senator's statement. I want to make sure the RECORD reflects the one person's name that wasn't mentioned who has played such a critical role in this process for years, and that is Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD from Connecticut.

There is no one who has been more involved with this, with the knowledge he has of foreign affairs generally, but of the particular country of Ireland. I know of his love for the people of Ireland and how much he personally has

been involved in this, how much time he has devoted to it. He has named everybody who has had something to do with it, but the one name he left off was his own.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague. I appreciate his kind comments. I will add additional names, too: people such as Tip O'Neill and Tom Foley. There is a long history that goes back several decades of people who have fought for a political solution to the problems here and within Ireland. I am grateful to my colleague from Nevada for making the point.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

June 27, 1999:

Samie A. Betouni, 35, Chicago, IL;
Terrell Bryant, 46, Miami-Dade County, FL;
Daniel M. Danjean, 25, New Orleans, LA;
Sonya Danjean, 25, New Orleans, LA;
Bryan Gilmore, 25, Lansing, MI;
Sandi Johnson, 38, Detroit, MI;
Cornell Scott, 24, Philadelphia, PA;
Issac Stephens, 28, Macon, GA;
Theodore Strong, 46, Charlotte, NC;
Dennis Tyler, 27, Lansing, MI;
Juan Wallace, 20, Chicago, IL;
Unidentified female, 25, Portland, OR.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SOUTH DAKOTA AND AROUND THE COUNTRY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, domestic violence is often the crime that victims don't want to admit and communities don't want to discuss. However, almost 10,000 domestic violence victims in South Dakota last year got help from the Department of Social Services. This represents a low estimate of the number of South Dakotans who are victims of domestic violence as many victims fail to seek help.

Since enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, the number of forcible rapes of women has declined, and the number of sexual assaults nationwide has gone down as well. Despite the success of the Violence Against Women Act, domestic abuse and violence against women continues to plague our communities. Consider the fact that a woman is raped

every five minutes in this country, and that nearly one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. In fact, more women are injured by domestic violence each year than by automobile accidents and cancer deaths combined.

These facts illustrate that there is a need in Congress to help states and communities address this problem that impacts all of our communities.

I recently joined Senator JOE BIDEN (D-DE), Senator ORRIN HATCH (R-UT), Senator TOM DASCHLE (D-SD), and others in sponsoring bipartisan legislation, S. 2787, to reauthorize the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. Authorization for the important programs contained in this law has already expired, and Congress must act now to ensure that successful programs dealing with domestic violence are funded in the future.

As a state lawmaker in 1983, I wrote one of the first domestic violence laws in South Dakota which dedicated a portion of marriage license fees to help build shelters for battered women. I was also a cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act in 1990 in the House of Representatives. Even at that time, many people denied that domestic violence existed in our state. Finally, in 1995, the President signed legislation to strengthen federal criminal law relating to violence against women and fund programs to help women who have been assaulted.

Since the Violence Against Women Act became law, South Dakota organizations have received over \$6.7 million in federal funding for domestic abuse programs. In addition, the Violence Against Women Act doubled prison time for repeat sex offenders; established mandatory restitution to victims of violence against women; codified much of our existing laws on rape; and strengthened interstate enforcement of violent crimes against women.

The law also created a national toll-free hotline to provide women with crisis intervention help, information about violence against women, and free referrals to local services. Last year, the hotline took its 300,000th call. The number for women to call for help is: 1-800-799-SAFE.

In addition to reauthorizing the provisions of the original Violence Against Women Act, the legislation that I am sponsoring in the Senate would improve our overall efforts to reduce violence against women by strengthening law enforcement's role in reducing violence against women. The legislation also expands legal services and assistance to victims of violence, while also addressing the effects of domestic violence on children. Finally, programs are funded to strengthen education and training to combat violence against women.

I have asked the Senate Judiciary Committee to quickly pass S. 2787, and

I am hopeful that the Senate will approve this important piece of legislation this year so that we can continue fighting domestic abuse and violence against women in our state and communities.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF TORTURE

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to the barbaric practice of torture. Yesterday—June 26th, was the 3rd annual U.N. International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors. The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition has designated this week, June 26th—June 30th, the week of commemoration of torture victims and survivors. Mr. President, colleagues, we should take this week to honor victims of torture, but more importantly, we should use this week as a reminder that together, we can make our world torture-free.

Torture has no ideological, geographical, or other boundaries—survivors of torture are everywhere. The practice of torture is one of the most serious human rights abuses of our time. According to the 1999 Amnesty International report, torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment conducted by government security forces, or condoned by other government officials, occurred in 125 countries last year.

As a Senator from Minnesota, I am extraordinarily proud of the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis, which since 1985 has been doing pioneering work in addressing the complex needs of survivors of torture. And while we have come a long way in the last fifteen years in raising awareness of torture and helping torture victims, there is still much more we should and could be doing to stop this terrible practice.

My own agenda in the Senate has included a number of human rights initiatives, including the sponsorship of the original Torture Victims Relief Act in 1998, which authorized funding to support foreign and domestic treatment centers in providing services to the millions of survivors of torture worldwide and the estimated 400,000 survivors in this country alone. Repressive governments frequently torture those who are defending human rights and democracy in their own country, and the Torture Victims Relief Act recognizes the debt we owe to these courageous people who have made such a sacrifice for cherished principles.

It is hard to imagine that in today's world torture still exists, but it does. In solidarity with all victims of torture, I ask you to join me this week in honoring them by helping raise awareness about torture worldwide. All week the Torture Abolition and Survivors

Support Coalition will be requesting meetings with members and staff, and conducting seminars to educate the public about torture. I urge you meet with the Coalition or to attend a seminar to learn the truth about the brutality of this crime. Educating yourself and the public about this terrible human rights abuse is the best way to honor its victims. Together we can end this barbaric practice. Together we can put a stop to torture.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 26, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,647,618,721,190.63 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-seven billion, six hundred eighteen million, seven hundred twenty-one thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and sixty-three cents).

Five years ago, June 26, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,889,053,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-nine billion, fifty-three million).

Ten years ago, June 26, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,118,101,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred eighteen billion, one hundred one million).

Fifteen years ago, June 26, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,462,594,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred sixty-two billion, five hundred ninety-four million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 26, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$526,124,000,000 (Five hundred twenty-six billion, one hundred twenty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,121,494,721,190.63 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty-one billion, four hundred ninety-four million, seven hundred twenty-one thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and sixty-three cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE PASSING OF VERMONT CONSERVATIONIST, JUSTIN BRANDE

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to call the Senate's attention to a recent tribute to the late Justin Brande authored by Professor Carl Reidel of the University of Vermont.

In his article, Professor Reidel captures the spirit of one of the most influential pioneers of 20th Century Vermont environmental stewardship. Justin Brande of Cornwall was among the founders of the Lake Champlain Committee and the Vermont Natural Resources Council, two of the most enduring and effective conservation organizations in our state.

Vermonters committed to stewardship of the land, to clean water and to family farms owe a debt to Justin Brande. He was a leader in organic agriculture and a selfless volunteer for