

about how I feel about your country.” He said, “In 1944, I was 14 years old and standing on a street corner in Paris, France, when the U.S. Liberation Army marched into Paris, France, and freed my country from the Nazis.” He said, “A young black American soldier reached out his hand and gave that 14-year-old boy an apple. I will go to my grave remembering that moment. We hadn’t had much fruit under the Nazi occupation for a long while. But I will remember that moment that young soldier handed me an apple.” He said, “You should understand what your country means to me, to us, to my country.”

I remember, again, the sacrifice that was made by so many Americans in World War II, the sacrifice made by what Tom Brokaw calls, appropriately, the “greatest generation.”

It seems to me appropriate that we ask those involved in the planning of this memorial, who are once again trying to evaluate exactly the conditions under which it is built, to allow this to go forward, allow this for the people who have spent the time, planned this memorial, and raised the money to make this happen for the World War II veterans. We owe our veterans that, and we don’t owe them further delay. Let’s not have further delay. Let’s get the memorial built.

#### BETTER EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ACT—Continued

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, our education system is in need of serious reform. Thirty-five years ago, Congress enacted the first Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Billions of dollars have been spent on Title I, the program that is the cornerstone of the federal investment in K through 12 education for disadvantaged children.

However, only 13 percent of low-income 4th graders score at or above the “proficient” level on national reading tests. As the recently released results of the 2000 National Assessment of Education Progress show, the reading scores of 4th grade students have shown no improvement since 1992.

Even worse, no progress has been made in achieving the program’s fundamental goal, narrowing the achievement gap between low-income and upper-income students. It is obvious that the current system has serious problems and it is time that we make serious reforms.

Some of my colleagues feel that the solution is to throw a huge amount of money at education. I disagree. Yes, education funding should increase, but continuing to expand the current federal system, which is characterized by its many duplicative and ineffective programs is not the answer.

We should be working together to ensure that education legislation estab-

lishes real standards for measuring academic achievement, streamlines federal education programs, promotes local flexibility, encourages and protects good teachers, and gives parents of students who are trapped in failing schools the opportunity to seek a better education for their children.

It is time to do something different. Although focusing on curriculum and teaching methods have fueled many of our past debates it is now important to shift our focus to the more general and structural aspects that affect learning. We need to allow parents, teachers, and schools to decide what is best for their children.

I believe that decisions about a child’s education should be made by people who actually know the child’s name. I do not believe that bureaucrats and politicians in Washington should dictate how states and localities spend education funds. Students in my home state of Alaska face unique challenges due to the diverse population, size of the state, and the isolation faced in rural communities. We need greater flexibility in order to meet our students needs.

The President’s education plan demands that states demonstrate student academic gains in reading, and math, as well as progress in reducing the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers. We need accountability so that we can be assured that there’s academic achievement. All of the educators that I speak to in Alaska tell me that they are not afraid of accountability. However, they maintain that they need more flexibility to reach high academic goals.

I agree with the President that we should consolidate federal elementary and secondary programs, insist upon high standards and accountability, and allow states and localities the flexibility they need to educate children.

It is time to recognize that we need to do something different. I call on my colleagues to work together to pass legislation that is “real” education reform.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN ROBERT BOLTON OF MARYLAND TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 4 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 39, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Robert Bolton of Maryland to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there shall now be 3 hours of debate on the nomination.

Under the previous order, there shall also be 60 minutes under the control of the Senator from North Dakota.

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, on the John Bolton nomination, I understand that I am to be recognized for an hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to give the final 15 minutes of my hour to Senator WELLSTONE.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, the issue before the Senate is the nomination of the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. The proposed nominee is Mr. John Bolton. I don’t know John Bolton from a cord of wood, and I have no ill will toward him, but I come to the floor opposing this nomination in the most vigorous way possible.

We have a circumstance in this world where there exist somewhere in the neighborhood of 30,000 to 40,000 nuclear weapons. They exist in relatively few countries. We have a large stockpile of nuclear weapons, Russia has an even larger stockpile of nuclear weapons, and a few other countries are members of the nuclear club. It was demonstrated about a year and a half ago, or so, that both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons. They don’t like each other at all. Each tested nuclear weapons underneath the other’s chin. One wonders about the wisdom of that. It demonstrated for all of the world the danger of so many nuclear weapons, the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

So it is our job, it is incumbent upon us in this country, to be a world leader and to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and to be a world leader in trying to reduce the number of nuclear weapons on this Earth. This is our responsibility.

The area of our Government in which leadership is required is that of Under Secretary of State for Arms Control. That is where one would expect to see leadership with respect to arms reductions, arms control talks, and stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

President Bush nominated John Bolton for the job. He is exactly the wrong nominee. He is exactly the wrong person to put in this position. Again, I do not know him personally. But I know of his thinking and writings and how he has expressed himself in recent years about these subjects. I am going to use some of these expressions, quotes, and articles he has written to demonstrate why I think he should not be confirmed by the Senate.

First, he does not have experience in arms control at all. He has never