

Over the years, I have had the great opportunity to be with President Clinton, Gen. Colin Powell, Secretary Ron Brown and many others on tours of Focus: HOPE. While each of these dignitaries has walked away impressed by the size and scope of Focus: HOPE's mission, they have been equally inspired by the spiritual nature of Focus: HOPE. Focus: HOPE has changed the lives of thousands of people throughout metropolitan Detroit by bringing to life the proverb "Give a person a fish and you feed him for a day; teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

While the past thirty years have undoubtedly been a great success for Focus: HOPE, 1997 was a very trying time for all who care deeply about this community. On May 26, Father William Cunningham, founder and inspiration of Focus: HOPE, passed away after a spirited battle against cancer. On July 2, the Focus: HOPE campus and the surrounding neighborhood were struck by a tornado, causing great damage to Focus: HOPE buildings. Under the magnificent leadership of Eleanor Josaitis and the hard work of the entire staff, Focus: HOPE has rebuilt and rededicated itself to Father Cunningham's vision. This difficult year has brought the community closer together as they celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the "Miracle on Oakman Boulevard," Focus: HOPE.●

TRIBUTE TO BUD McCALL

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I stand today to pay tribute to a man who quietly serves his community the only way he knows how—through hard work and dedication. Bud McCall, a county commissioner since 1977, is being named Citizen of the Year by the St. Maries Chamber of Commerce.

Bud has been an active community member in St. Maries and Benewah County longer than most people can remember. Bud serves the community in many ways: as an employer, an elected official, and a community volunteer. Today he is being recognized for his voluntary efforts during the spring floods of 1996 when Bud came to the rescue of many area residents. He tirelessly worked around the clock to help protect the community from further damage from the repeated flooding. He rounded up equipment to stabilize crumbling dikes, met with emergency crews developing a crisis management strategy, and provided shelter for those who found themselves homeless. He literally donated thousands of hours of his time and equipment for the benefit of the community when the community needed him most. However, this is nothing new for Bud. He has always been there when the community needs him.

On a more personal note, Bud is a man of few words. He is the kind of man who, when met on the street even after a long day of hard work, will always greet you with a smile.

Bud's love for his community is shown through all he does. I am proud today to recognize him as an outstanding citizen and public servant that represents the ideals of Idaho.●

LITTLE HEARTS DAY CARE: A COMMUNITY EFFORT

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to call your attention to the Little Hearts Day Care in Estelline, South Dakota, and to the community leaders who rose to new heights to create a day care center amid a child care shortage.

Late last year, Estelline experienced a devastating child care shortage when two of the local child care providers closed their doors to pursue other endeavors. While this rural community wishes the best for these providers, Estelline was left in a state of crisis: all of the remaining day care services were filled to capacity, and working parents had no place to bring their children.

In this time of alarm, community leaders, the Estelline Area Development Corporation, and the city worked together to locate a building to operate a non-profit day care center. Soon after, Donna Thompson, Glenda Thompson, and Kim Ward incorporated the Little Hearts Day Care. If it were not for the massive volunteer effort to renovate the vacant building, the Little Hearts Day Care would be little more than a glimmering idea of hope. Thousands of dollars of materials and hundreds of hours of labor were donated to renovate the building and to make the day care center safe for children. Volunteers cleaned, painted, and some even provided professional services such as plumbing and carpentry. I applaud the community of Estelline for their hard work in filling this void in child care.

Our nation's children are its greatest asset and our most precious treasure. It is vital that we help them get the right start, nurture their development and provide for their well-being. Having held numerous child care meetings with providers, parents, and concerned officials all around our state, I am more convinced than ever that providing high quality, affordable child care is one of the most important issues South Dakota and our nation faces. In our state, we have one of the highest ratios of working moms in the country, coupled with one of the lowest per capita income levels. As a consequence, too many of our child care providers are being asked to provide professional, loving care with very marginal compensation.

While I do not believe in "federalizing" child care, I do think our nation needs a federal-state-local partnership designed to provide local child care providers and parents with better options. This cooperative effort should avoid the creation of new bureaucracies and inflexible mandatory rules, while providing greater financial re-

sources for parents and the entire range of child care providers. Training, standards improvement, nutrition assistance and the promotion of employer incentives for child care strategies should also be part of our effort.

I am pleased that child care issues are receiving the attention of Congress and the Administration. I am proud to have cosponsored the Creating Improved Delivery of Child Care: Affordable, Reliable and Educational (CIDCARE) bill. This measure will help working families afford child care and will provide parents incentives to choose higher quality care. I am pleased that the President's proposal will establish a Child Care Provider Scholarship Fund. This measure will enable states to provide scholarship funds to students working toward a degree in child care.

Quality child care is the first step in ensuring that the children of working parents grow up in a healthy environment, and I am pleased that the community of Estelline answered the call for action.

Mr. President, as I yield the floor, I hope other communities throughout the nation will look to the Little Hearts Day Care and the city of Estelline, and benefit from this prime example of civic cooperation.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK BUELL

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I stand today to pay tribute to the kind of person every community wishes they had, a down-to-earth caretaker of the community with a heart of gold. Jack Buell, Chairman of the Idaho Benewah County Commissioners is being honored in his community as Citizen of the Year. Jack, like many Idahoans, lives in a resource-rich part of Idaho. He not only provides jobs for many citizens of St. Maries, but is constantly working to enrich this small town. Jack has served as a county commissioner since 1974, and has a reputation for active leadership. This year, he was named as one of the top 25 most influential citizens in the state of Idaho by a Boise newspaper.

It is not difficult to understand why Jack is a man of influence: He's a man of his word and a problem solver. Over the past few years, he faced demanding challenges when his community was hit by devastating floods in the spring of 1996. He worked around-the-clock to minimize the destructive damage caused by the spring floods. He offered heavy equipment, employees, campers, trailers and any other resource he had that someone else could use. He paid his employees for their work and never asked the government or community to reimburse him for his employees' wages. And still Jack was deeply frustrated that he could not do more to protect people from the problems and pain they faced as they faced their losses.

Jack has been inspiring in his work with the community schools. When the

school board couldn't get a bond passed to build a new gym for the high school, Jack got to work and found local solutions to the problem. He is a man who doesn't ask what his community can do for him, but instead asks what he can do for the community.

Jack's passion for service without recognition does not go unnoticed. I am proud to honor this man so many call friend, and recognize him for living his daily life in a way that has earned the title of citizen of the year.●

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, yesterday, Sunday, March 8th, was commemorated by women around the globe as International Women's Day. I rise today to recognize the importance of this day, and to discuss five issues—the use of rape as an instrument of war; the human rights of women in Afghanistan; international trafficking in women and girls; international family planning; and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women—where I believe the United States can and must play a key role in leading the international community's efforts to improve the status of women around the world.

Every day, women around the globe are subject to abuse, violence and discrimination simply because they are women. Whether it is the rape of women in Bosnia and Rwanda as part of a policy of ethnic cleansing, the human rights abuses faced by the women of Afghanistan, or the more subtle forms of discrimination faced daily by women everywhere, the majority of the world's women and girls remain excluded from the prevailing vision of human rights and continue to lack basic legal and fundamental rights.

As we look around the globe, it seems safe to say that U.S. foreign policy does not lack for challenges. Yet, even as we face these other challenges—be it the threat of Saddam Hussein or the threat of an Asian financial crisis—we must also recognize that advancing the status of women is not only the right thing to do, it must be a central part of the foreign policy of the United States.

As I mentioned earlier, as we work to advance this broader agenda there are five areas in particular which I would like to address today: The use of rape as an instrument of war, the situation in Afghanistan, international trafficking in women and girls, international family planning, and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

RAPE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF WAR

The first issue I would like to address today is one which, in recent years, has been of increasing concern to me: The use of rape as an instrument of war.

In all too many places around the world—Bosnia, Rwanda, Afghanistan, to name just three—the last few years have witnessed the regular and system-

atic use of rape and other forms of violent gender discrimination as tactics of war and of "ethnic cleansing." Indeed, in looking at many of the world's ongoing conflicts it sometimes seems as if the use of rape as an instrument of war has become almost commonplace.

While rape by soldiers has long been a brutal reality in time of war, in all too many cases in the past few years it has frequently operated as a weapon of war itself. Soldiers, paramilitaries and militiamen rape and sexually assault women as part of systematic campaigns of ethnic cleansing. In some cases, women have been interned in camps and houses and subjected to repeated rape and sexual assault.

Well, as far as I am concerned rape as a tool of war must never be accepted, and the international community must act—now—to put an end, once and for all, to the use of rape as an instrument of war.

I was pleased when the international war crimes tribunals for both Rwanda and Bosnia issued indictments which, for the first time in history, charged individuals with "grave breaches" of the Geneva Convention and for crimes against humanity for the use of rape as an instrument of war.

I have been sorely disappointed, however, by the repeated failure of the international community—especially in the former Yugoslavia—to see that those who were indicted for perpetrating these crimes are brought to justice.

Estimates are that up to 20,000 women in Yugoslavia were systematically raped as part of a policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide. In Srebrenica, an alleged "safe area," one woman told of Serb soldiers, dressed as UN peacekeepers, who came in a factory where refugees were gathered and dragged away two girls aged 12 and 14 and a 23 year-old woman. After several hours, the three returned. They were crying, naked, and bleeding. One said, "We are not girls anymore."

According to the United Nations Commission of Experts, the victims of rape in Bosnia included girls as young as six and women as old as eighty-one. Many women and girls were subjected to gang rapes while being held in detention camps. And, tragically, for many of the women of ex-Yugoslavia, rape was merely a prelude to further torture and then death.

I am deeply concerned about NATO's failure to arrest all persons indicted for rape and other war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By issuing indictments for rape, the international community sent a strong message that there can be no impunity for violence against women in time of war. Yet few of those indicted have so far faced justice. Of the seventy-nine persons indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), 50 remain at large, including twenty-two indicted for rape and sexual assault. Only four indicted suspects charged with rape are in custody.

Successful arrest actions in Prijedor, Vitez and Bijeljina demonstrate that the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) has both the means and the mandate to apprehend indicted war crimes suspects. While the recent voluntary surrenders by three suspects at the urging of Bosnian Serb Premier Milorad Dodik are encouraging, most indicted suspects in Bosnia reside in areas under the control of Radovan Karadzic and other hardliners, who persist in their refusal to cooperate with the ICTY. Unless NATO arrests those indicted in these areas, it is extremely unlikely that they will ever stand trial.

Ultimately, it is a hollow and cynical gesture to claim outrage over rape as a war crime, issue indictments, but then to act as if the indictments do not merit the commitment or resources to see that those who committed these crimes are, in fact, apprehended and prosecuted.

What kind of nation are we if we can not see to it that the people who practiced rape as an instrument of war are not brought to justice?

I believe the use of rape as an instrument of genocide and ethnic cleansing is a war crime of the highest order. And the failure to assure that those who have been indicted for rape as a war crime are apprehended, extradited, and made to stand trial, does a grave injustice to women around the world.

Indeed, if war criminals indicted for rape are not brought to justice, the international community will have betrayed the legacy of Nuremberg, the victims of the wars that tore Rwanda and Yugoslavia apart, and women world-wide. And we will have set a dangerous precedent that will give encouragement to others elsewhere in the world who may consider the use of rape and genocide as tools of war.

I have repeatedly written the President and Secretary of State calling for stronger international action to see to it that those indicted of war crimes are brought to justice. And last year, along with Senator LAUTENBERG and several of my colleagues, I was proud to co-sponsor the War Crimes Prosecution Facilitation Act of 1997. Today, in commemoration of international women's day, I once again call on the administration and the international community to take strong, forceful, and unmistakable action on this issue.

AFGHANISTAN

Perhaps nowhere in the world today is there a clearer test of our commitment to the cause of women's rights than Afghanistan.

For close to twenty years, Afghanistan has been torn apart by war and bloodshed. More than a million people have died, and much of the capital of Kabul lies in ruins. For women and their families, these events have been a disaster, made worse in recent years by the ascendancy of the Taliban, an extremist militia group which captured Kabul in September 1996 and declared an end to many of the basic human rights of Afghan women.