

Why should it be that when I meet the Minister of Finance, or any Minister for that matter, that I know that I'm not speaking to the person who makes the decisions? How can that be in a democracy? In Great Britain they share Japan's Parliamentary system, but their cabinet agencies reflect the views of the Prime Minister and the people who elect the parliament, and they run the agency. Of course the Ministers consult with the bureaucrats, but they are held accountable for reflecting the Prime Minister's views and the national will. Unfortunately, that can't be said about today's Japan.

I also find it ironic that the political reforms, such as single delegate districts, that were supposed to open up Japan's democracy and decision making, have not brought about the fundamental change in the system that everyone expected. The lack of a strong multi-party system, with a strong and viable opposition party remains a barrier to reform and serves as a wall through which ideas and change cannot penetrate.

Just as Americans still have much to learn from Japan's successes, my point must also be to emphasize that we are affected by how Japan handles the challenges now posed by the weaker parts of their economy. Our relationship is not just a matter of the ties between our leaders, the tremendously important military alliance we share or the many forms of business and investment we transact between one another. We are increasingly connected through currencies, our banking systems and loan policies, the value of stocks, and whether Japan puts too much emphasis on exporting its way out of the problems rather than internal measures. We in the U.S. hope that our economic condition will insulate ourselves from the downturns in Asia. But we have to worry about markets shrinking for our products and especially any growth in our sizable trade deficit with Japan.

My biggest fear is that if the Asian crisis remains unchecked, and average Americans begin to feel the impact of the succeeding market collapses on their incomes, they will begin to question Japan's national resolve and political will to deal with these problems. I especially don't want to see any further reasons for Americans to turn within or fear an active role in world trade. Throughout my political career, I have pushed very hard in my state of West Virginia for open markets, a global economy and fought against the forces of isolation and protectionism. Competition has served both my state and my country, and they will Japan as well.

So, the actions Japan takes, or does not take, will affect America, as surely as they will their neighbors in Asia.

I hope both our nations' leaders will continue to place the utmost importance on the U.S.-Japan relationship. Its strength is the basis for honesty with one another, for the ability to ad-

dress problems together, and to pursue regional and shared objectives. We also must maintain and nurture this strength, which especially requires us to appreciate the role that our economies have on one another—because of their effect on our people and our sense of ourselves as nations. And this is a time when steps are more urgently required to ensure progress and prevent any kind of setback. I pledge to do my part in continuing to promote the importance and the potential of a strong, close U.S.-Japan relationship at all levels.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today as I and a number of my colleagues do every year to mark and remember a dark day in human history: The beginning of the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

On April 24, 1915—eighty-three years ago—the Ottoman Empire launched a brutal and unconscionable policy of mass murder. Over an eight year period, 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and another 500,000 were driven from their homes, their land and property confiscated.

As we remember the dark past of the Armenian people, however, our act of remembrance also offers the opportunity to celebrate hope and the resilience of the human spirit. Today, the people of Armenia can look to a promising future, as they continue to work for democracy and peace in their homeland.

The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the twentieth century, an appalling precursor to events in Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, Cambodia, Bosnia and Central Africa, as well as too numerous other places. As we mark this day of remembrance, people of conscience around the world must redouble our commitment to fight for human dignity and freedom, and vow to never again allow genocide to occur.●

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, April 24th is the day we remember the horrors inflicted upon the Armenians in Turkey during World War I and afterward. Today, we express our solidarity with Armenians everywhere, and reflect upon the meaning of their suffering and sacrifice. We mourn the dead, and express our condolences to their living descendants. During that terrible tragedy, about 1.5 million people were killed.

The massacres and deportations of the Armenians during that period were a forerunner of subsequent horrors perpetrated against other peoples. The Armenians were the first victims of geno-

cide in this century, when civilian populations, defined by ethnicity, race or religion, have been targeted by soldiers or paramilitary groups, and in some cases, by sovereign states using all their instruments of military power to destroy a people.

We mark this day so as never to forget what happened, and to strengthen our conviction to prevent any recurrences in the future. Not only against Armenians, but against any people.

During and after World War I, Armenians did not have a state of their own. Today, independent Armenia defends Armenians everywhere, and they, in turn, protect the interests of their ancient homeland. Armenia is a country of great promise, despite its many troubles. We fervently hope that the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Minsk Group will be successful and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be resolved peacefully. We pray that we may see a prosperous Armenia living in peace with all its neighbors, continuing to teach the world lessons, as a light unto the nations.●

THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the 83rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which consumed the lives of one and a half million men, women and children. Today, as we remember the sacrifice of the Armenian people, we honor them by renewing our commitment to protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of all humanity.

It is imperative, Mr. President, that no nation or individual ever forget the injustices suffered by the Armenians in 1915. Perhaps the most prominent witness to the Armenian genocide was Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey at the time, who described the wide-scale and deliberate orchestration of atrocities against the Armenian people as "the Greatest Horror in History." He later wrote,

"Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted people. I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915. The killing of the Armenian people was accompanied by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art and of history in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization some three thousand years old."

Ambassador Morgenthau's assessment of the great tragedy was consonant with public reporting at the

time the events took place. Newspaper headlines in mid-1915 heralded, "More Armenian Massacres," "Armenian Horrors Grow," "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed," "800,000 Armenians Counted Destroyed," "Spare Armenians, Pope Asks Sultan." On July 16, 1915, Morgenthau sent the following message by telegraph to the Secretary of State:

"Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eyewitnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under pretext of reprisal against rebellion."

Other diplomats and consular officers substantiated the Ambassador's report of what was taking place. Abram Elkus, Morgenthau's successor, through his cables to the State Department confirmed his predecessor's assessment.

We must not allow a handful of revisionists to shake our resolve to prompt recognition and acceptance of responsibility for this well-documented historical event. Indeed, Morgenthau and other diplomats who witnessed and reported in great detail the enormous devastation of the Armenian community would be astonished to learn today that the abundant evidence they collected, much of which is held in our own National Archives, and the testimony of survivors who are still with us, have come under challenge. Despite the irrefutability of the documentation and testimony, including extensive accounts from survivors, witnesses, and historians, there are those who deny the past, blame the victims, and oppose reconciliation.

It is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Armenian people that, after enduring centuries of oppression, they have reestablished a free and independent state that is making new strides toward democracy and economic revitalization. In its short existence, the Republic of Armenia has survived the earthquake of 1988, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and a blockade by its neighbors. The spirit of the Armenian people is reflected not only in their dedication to rebuilding a nation from the ashes of totalitarianism, but also in the strength and vibrancy of the Armenian-American community. Americans of Armenian origin have successfully contributed to the cultural, social, economic, and political life of this country while preserving the rich faith and cultural traditions of their forebears. Clearly, the spirit of the Armenian people continues to thrive.

Mr. President, to ensure that such a tragedy never be repeated it is incumbent upon us to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide and pay tribute to the survivors. Just as we have vowed never to forget the Nazi Holocaust, we must continually remind ourselves of the events of 1915. They became, after all, a precedent for Hitler, who rationalized his barbarism by asking, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

As citizens of a nation founded on the ideals of freedom and human dignity, we must educate ourselves about the events that constituted the Armenian genocide and renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on humanity. In the words of the great philosopher, George Santayana, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."●

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Old and young around the world today remember the Armenian holocaust. We remember that on this date in 1915, the Ottoman Empire and the successor Turkish nationalist regime began a brutal policy of deportation and murder. Over the next eight years, 1.5 million Armenians would be massacred at the hands of the Turks and another 500,000 would have their property confiscated and be driven from their homeland.

Although it seems that the world stood silent while the Armenian population was devastated, a few witnesses did try to tell the terrible story. In 1919, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, published a memoir which extensively detailed what he had seen and heard in Turkey during the previous six years. Of the events of the genocide, Ambassador Morgenthau wrote, "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

Last August, I had the opportunity to visit Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. I was able to see the treasures of that land firsthand and pay tribute to the indomitable spirit of the people of Armenia. One morning I toured the Genocide Monument and Museum in Yerevan and then stood by the eternal flame while a vocalist sang a haunting solo. It was the most moving moment of my visit.

My trip to the Transcaucasus made it clear that despite having already undergone such terrible persecution and hardship, the people of the Armenian Republic still suffer today. The economy is struggling and the area has still not recovered from the 1988 earthquake. The Karabagh conflict remains unresolved and Turkey continues to blockade humanitarian aid to Armenia.

However, the Armenian people remain resilient, hopeful, and an inspiration to others. In Armenia, they continue their quest for peace and democracy. Just last month, the residents of Armenia showed their commitment to democracy when they participated in the third presidential election since independence in 1991. In America, many

communities, like those in my home state of Rhode Island, are enriched by the traditions of Armenians who have immigrated to our shores.

Because Armenia is a part of our world and persons of Armenian descent are members of our community, we must remain committed to always remember the Armenian genocide. As Peter Balakian, author of the critically acclaimed "Black Dog of Fate", wrote:

Commemoration is an essential process for the bereaved and for the inheritors of the legacy of genocide. It is a process of making meaning out of unthinkable horror and loss. The burden of bereavement can be alleviated if shared and witnessed by a larger community. Only then can redemption, hope and community be achieved.

Menk panav chenkn mornar.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO DUNWOODY HIGH STUDENTS

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dunwoody High School students, Bakari Brock, Jennifer Campbell, Richard Cartwright, Michael Cayes, Carol Chandler, Melissa Chastnew, Zack Cullens, Melissa Derick, Kevin Franklin, Erin Green, Judy Hudgins, Rebecca Lamb, Dwayne O'Mard, Sandra Park, Andrea Pierce, Jennifer Price, Scot Prudhomme, Carlyn Sibling, Geren Stone, Dannon Taylor, David Weiner, David Yoo, and their teacher, Celeste Boemker, who will be traveling to Washington to represent our state in the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution Program" in early May.

As a strong proponent for the education of our nation's youth, it is with great pride that I hear of children from my home state to compete on a national level to test their knowledge of politics and the government of the United States. Students and teachers such as these, who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and intelligence, should be appropriately recognized. Therefore, Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend these students and wish them luck in their upcoming competition.●

EXPLANATION OF SELECTED VOTES TO THE SENATE BUDGET RESOLUTION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, now that the budget resolution has been adopted, I wanted to take a few moments to discuss several of the more important votes that took place.

The first of these was the Allard amendment to create a new point of order against future budgets that fail to eliminate the federal debt by the year 2028. Mr. President, I fully support reducing the size of the federal debt, and I am glad the pending resolution cuts the relative size of the debt by almost 20 percent over the next five years. On the other hand, the Allard amendment may require making payments on debt that is not actually due.