



SENATE DEMOCRATIC COMMUNICATIONS CENTER
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER HARRY REID
(202) 224-2939



For Immediate Release

Thursday, September 29, 2005

CONTACT: Jim Manley or Rebecca Kirschner (202) 224-2939

**REID CALLS ON FORMER REAGAN CABINET MEMBER TO APOLOGIZE
FOR RACIAL REMARKS**

Washington, DC -- The following is a statement by Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid on William Bennett's recent comments:

Yesterday, on his radio call-in show, former Reagan Secretary of Education, William Bennett made the following comment, "... *you could abort every black baby in this country and your crime rate would go down. That would be an impossible, ridiculous, and morally reprehensible thing to do, but your crime rate would go down.*"

"I am appalled by Mr. Bennett's remarks and call on him to issue an immediate apology not only to African Americans but to the nation. At a time when so many Americans are struggling to recover from two devastating Hurricanes, now is the time to help one another, not feed the fires of racism. America can do better. The Republican Party has recently taken great pains to reach out to the African American community, and I hope that they will be swift in condemning Mr. Bennett's comments as nothing short of callous and ignorant. They are reminiscent of a time our nation is still struggling to overcome. Again, I call on him to issue an immediate apology to the nation for his insensitive remarks."

###