Specialist McLaugh had a heart for the less fortunate. According to his fellow soldiers, he would leave the safety of his Jeep and give candy to the Iraqi children. Imagine an American soldier who truly cared for the least among us, and performed simple acts of kindness to his fellow humans. Imagine an American soldier who represented America with a noble heart, and reminded us all of the freedoms we take for granted. Specialist McLaugh was that soldier.

His compassion is a microcosm of the American spirit, the spirit that drives us to fight oppression around the world. The Iraqi people are an oppressed people, and Specialist McLaugh showed us how our inherent humanity can overcome even the broadest of differences. He refused to sit idly and watch the tyranny in Iraq take place any longer. It is for the sake of these broken, defeated people that Specialist McLaugh risked his life on a daily basis. It is for these people that he gave his life in the end. He was a true American hero.

His twin sister Windy said that her "kid brother" became her hero. Specialist McLaugh should not only be his sister's hero, but the Nation's hero as well. He set a high example of what it means to be an American and what it means to be human. It is for men like Specialist McLaugh that I am proud to be a part of this great country. He was a special soldier, but more importantly, a special man.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of section 308 of S. Con. Res. 32, the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2004 budget through November 19, 2003. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2004 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, H. Con. Res. 95, as adjusted.

The effects of these actions are detailed on Table 2.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN
Director.
TERRORIST APPREHENSION ACT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, earlier this week, an article in the Washington Post highlighted concerns about limits on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's ability to pursue terrorists who try to buy guns. After September 11, 2001, the FBI launched an initiative to notify Federal law enforcement officials and other national security officials when suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list attempt to purchase a firearm. However, according to the Washington Post article, an interpretation of current law by the Attorney General has precluded Federal agents from obtaining any details about gun purchases unless the purchaser is identified by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System as a prohibited buyer.

The Post article cited situations in which law enforcement officials have not been able to pursue known terrorists armed with a firearm. According to the Washington Post, as many as 21 suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list have attempted to buy guns since the spring of 2003. According to Justice Department officials cited in the Post article, the rules established by the Attorney General prevent Federal officials from sharing information with investigators about legal gun buyers, even if these gun buyers are suspected terrorists.

Law enforcement officials told the Post that the FBI frequently does not know the whereabouts of suspected terrorists on its watch lists. In such cases, learning where a suspected terrorist bought a firearm and what address they provided could be extremely helpful to counterterrorism investigators.

To assist the FBI in monitoring and apprehending suspected terrorists, Senator Lautenberg introduced the Terrorist Apprehension Act. This bill would require NICS to alert the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and local law enforcement officials any time an individual on a terrorist watch list attempts to buy a firearm.

I believe this is common sense homeland security legislation, and I hope the Congress will enact it quickly.


Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, consistent with my policy of publishing in the RECORD a statement whenever I place a hold on legislation, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request on S. 1896, the Tax Relief Extension Act, and to H.R. 1664, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act. I am doing so because these bills are the only relevant amendable legislation expected to be taken up in the Senate before the end of the current session and, therefore, they provide the only opportunity to extend unemployment benefits before they expire at the end of the year.

Oregon currently has the highest unemployment rate in the Nation with an