

someone listens. Closing a national monument road for a few hours to accommodate a simple 23-mile road race should not provoke this kind of controversy. Yet, the Park Service seems determined to continue the controversy by ignoring the runners, the local paper and the community. When will our National Park Service understand that they need to work with the people and not ignore them, especially when we have a community that is willing to do its fair share?

I yield back the floor.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA FACILITIES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 44, S. 476, regarding the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

I further ask unanimous consent that there be 20 minutes under the control of Senator HATCH, 10 minutes under the control of Senator BIDEN, and 10 minutes under control of Senator LEAHY, and no amendments be in order to the bill; and, finally, following the expiration or yielding back of the time, the bill be read a third time with no other intervening action or debate.

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

The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 476) to provide for the establishment of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities by the year 2000.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support S. 476, legislation to further the commitment of the Republican Congress to support the expansion of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, one of the best examples of proven youth crime prevention.

This is not a partisan initiative, however. I am pleased to have the company of a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senator BIDEN, the ranking Democrat on the Youth Violence Subcommittee, Senator STEVENS, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator GREGG, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator KOHL, who serves on the Judiciary Committee, and, of course, Senator THURMOND, who has served as a distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. President, the volunteer spirit is alive and well in America. The Presidents' summit on voluntarism, held recently in Philadelphia, focused national attention on this aspect of the

American people's generous spirit. Yet, the effects of the legislation we are debating today will be felt in neighborhoods across the country long after the spotlight is gone, and long after the speeches are forgotten.

Our legislation addresses our continuing initiative to ensure that, with Federal seed money, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America are able to expand to serve an additional 1 million young people through at least 2,500 clubs by the year 2000. The dedication of all of these members demonstrates our commitment to both authorize and fund this effort.

Last year, in a bipartisan effort, the Republican Congress enacted legislation I authored to authorize \$100 million in Federal seed money over 5 years to establish and expand Boys and Girls Clubs in public housing and distressed areas throughout our country. With the help of the Appropriations Committee, we have fully funded this initiative.

The bill we are debating today streamlines the application process for these funds, and permits a small amount of the funds to be used to establish a role model speakers' program to encourage and motivate young people nationwide.

It is important to note that what we are providing is seed money for the construction and expansion of clubs to serve our young people. This is bricks and mortar money to open clubs. After they are opened, they will operate without any significant Federal funds. In my view, this is a model for the proper role of the Federal Government in crime prevention.

The days are over when we can afford huge, never-ending, federally run programs. According to a GAO report last year, over the past 30 years, Congress has created 131 separate Federal programs, administered by 16 different agencies, to serve delinquent and at-risk youth. These programs cost \$4 billion in fiscal year 1995. Yet we have not made significant progress in keeping our young people away from crime and drugs.

What we can and must afford is short-term, solid support for proven private sector programs—like the Boys and Girls Clubs—that really do make a difference. Boys and Girls Clubs are among the most effective nationwide programs to assist youth to grow into honest, caring, involved, and law-abiding adults.

We know that Boys and Girls Clubs work. Researchers at Columbia University found that public housing developments in which there was an active Boys and Girls Club had a 25-percent reduction in the presence of crack cocaine, a 22-percent reduction in overall drug activity, and a 13 percent reduction in juvenile crime. Members of Boys and Girls Clubs also do better in school, are less attracted to gangs, and feel better about themselves.

There are many distinguished alumni of Boys and Girls Clubs, including

President Clinton and other role models such as actor Denzel Washington, basketball superstar Michael Jordan, and San Francisco 49ers quarterback Steve Young.

More important, however, are the uncelebrated success stories—the miracles performed by Boys and Girls Clubs every day. At a Judiciary Committee hearing on March 19, we heard from one of these miracles. Amador Guzman, from my State of Utah, told us how he believes the club in his neighborhood saved his life, by keeping him from gangs, drugs, and violence.

The reason Boys and Girls Clubs work—and the reason Congress wants to do more for them—is because they are locally run and depend primarily on community involvement for their success.

Never have our youth had a greater need for the positive influence of Boys and Girls Clubs, and never has the work of the Clubs been more critical. Our young people are being assaulted from all sides with destructive messages. For instance, drug use is on the rise. Recent statistics reconfirm that drugs are ensnaring young people as never before. Overall drug use by youth ages 12 to 17 rose 105 percent between 1992 and 1995, and 33 percent between 1994 and 1995. 10.9 percent of our young people now use drugs on a monthly basis, and monthly use of marijuana is up 37 percent, monthly use of LSD is up 54 percent, and monthly cocaine use by youth is up 166 percent between 1994 and 1995.

Our young people are also being assaulted by gangs. By some estimates, there are more than 3,875 youth gangs, with 200,000 members, in the Nation's 79 largest cities, and the numbers are going up. Even my State of Utah has not been immune from this scourge. In Salt Lake City, since 1992, the number of identified gangs has increased 55 percent, from 185 to 288. The number of gang members has increased 146 percent, from 1,438 to 3,545; and the number of gang-related crimes has increased a staggering 279 percent, from 1,741 in 1992 to 6,611 in 1996. Shockingly, 208 of these involved drive-by shootings.

Every day, our young people are being bombarded with cultural messages in music, movies, and television that undermine the development of core values of citizenship. Popular culture and the media glorify drug use, meaningless violence, and sex without commitment.

The importance of Boys and Girls Clubs in fighting drug abuse, gang recruitment, and moral poverty cannot be overstated. The Clubs across the country are a bulwark for our young people and deserve all the support we can give.

Indeed, Federal efforts are already paying off. Using over \$15 million in seed money appropriated for fiscal year 1996, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America opened 208 new clubs in 1996. These clubs are providing positive places of

hope, safety, learning and encouragement for about 180,000 more kids today than in 1995. In my State of Utah, these funds have helped keep an additional 6,573 kids away from gangs, drugs, and crime.

The \$20 million appropriated for fiscal year 1997 is expected to result in another 200 clubs and 200,000 more kids involved in clubs. We need now to redouble our efforts. The legislation we introduce today demonstrates our commitment to do that. It will not, and cannot, solve our juvenile crime problem. We will be bringing other legislation to the floor that will address, in a comprehensive manner, the urgent problems of juvenile crime. S. 476, is, however, an important first step in that endeavor, aimed at stopping youth crime before it starts.

Mr. President, let me just add, this is a terrific bill. It is a bipartisan initiative. I want to compliment my colleague from Delaware for the hard work he has done through the years on Boys and Girls Clubs, and he certainly deserves a lot of the credit for the bill. We have worked together, and we are going to continue to do so. I hope that the Congress will pass this in an expeditious fashion to continue to use one of the best ways of stopping crime and helping kids that our society has ever known.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, let me thank my colleague for his reference. I think it should be made clear that without the chairman's strong and wholehearted support and initiation here, we would not be where we are. I want to, just in a very brief time, review the bidding here a little bit.

Let me remind everybody that this was in the crime bill, the original Biden-Hatch crime bill, and ended up having some other iterations before it was over. But we had provisions in there for prevention.

One of the things that happened was on both sides of the aisle, left, right, center, was we got into this great debate about whether prevention works and whether or not the prevention money in the crime bill was to support prisoners in pink tutus dancing in ballet style, and all that kind of stuff. We got into big fights about midnight basketball, and all that.

I am not suggesting we reengage those fights except to make this following point. The reason why in the original bill a while ago I specifically singled out Boys and Girls Clubs—I want to be up front about this—was real simple. It was the one place I knew that we could get consensus among Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, because this is prevention that works. And it was my view at the time that, if we singled out Boys and Girls Clubs—and we did, which is kind of unusual to do in a crime bill to single out a specific nonprofit to make sure they get money. That is a bit unusual. The reason to do it was, the statistics are overwhelming. Let me give you a few reasons why this works.

There was a study done by Columbia University that demonstrated—and I am going to be brief—that public housing sites where there are Boys Clubs and Girls Clubs, compared with public housing sites without these clubs, there was a drastic difference. Let me make it clear now, this study was done, no one disputes—they took public housing sites with the same demographic makeup, same cities, same populations, same racial composition, put a Boys and Girls Club in the basements of one, not in the other.

Here is what the study confirmed. Those public housing projects that had a Boys and Girls Club in the basement, or wherever they were in the building, had 13 percent fewer juvenile crimes, 22 percent less drug activity, and 25 percent less crack presence. This is in the crack epidemic. Still a big problem. We have other things to worry about, too. But the bottom line, Mr. President, is it works.

I know the Presiding Officer from Montana has done a lot of work with kids over the years. He has been involved in things that have to do with everything from 4-H to rodeos to Lord only knows what. I hear all these stories he tells me about Montana and about how these kids are involved. The truth of the matter is you get a kid involved, you have less chance that kid is going to get involved in something bad.

My mom has an expression that I am sure every one of our moms have said in different ways, the expression is: "Remember, JOEY, an idle mind is a devil's workshop." The bottom line is you give a kid nothing to do, he is likely to find trouble. Give a kid nothing to do in an area where there is nothing but trouble, he or she becomes part of the trouble. Give a child something to do, an alternative, an escape, a way out where there is nothing but trouble, give them a safe haven, and you increase the prospects that they are not going to be in trouble.

So that is why we proposed and passed through the Senate in 1996 \$20 million in spending for the first year of a 5-year effort to create 1,000 new Boys and Girls Clubs. Ultimately we got \$11 million in the final appropriations bill.

Senator HATCH and some of our colleagues, Senator LEAHY and others that are mentioned, worked together to provide the second year of funding in last year's appropriations bill.

If it were not for the fact that Senator HATCH in the majority party, the leader of the committee, jumped in at that point, I believe the appropriation would not have been anything. He used his influence and his weight, got this up on the radar screen and continued to save this program. So the second year of funding in last year's appropriations bill came through.

Senator HATCH also worked to pass legislation supporting this concept, the whole notion, last year. The bottom line is, we are working together so that we can have a total of 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs by the year 2000. This bill

does a very important thing. It simplifies—let me emphasize, it simplifies—the application procedure.

So, although it does not provide additional funding beyond that already authorized, the simplification is important, letting Boys and Girls Clubs go straight to the Justice Department. They do not have to go through their Governors, do not have to go through their State legislature, do not have to go through their city council. They go straight to the Justice Department and seek the funding.

This is the simple, straightforward approach that I have always supported in the Biden crime bill and why I am so pleased that my colleague, the chairman of the committee, has in fact been so supportive and led on this.

Last year's bill provided for consultation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, an unnecessary requirement. I have nothing against HUD, but I believe we must get these important prevention dollars out to the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the country as quickly and as efficiently as possible. And this bill will help do that.

Let me conclude by saying, if we are able to fund 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs, it could not come at a more important moment in our history from a demographic standpoint. There are 39 million children, Mr. President, under the age of 10 in the United States of America today, the largest cadre of young people about to enter the crime-committing years that we have had since the baby boom of those of us born in the 1940's.

It is a big deal, Mr. President. If we through our police efforts, through our present efforts, hold the percentage of crime committed by young people to the same percentage it is now, without one one-hundredth of 1 percent increase in the amount of crime that is committed, as a percent of the population, we will in fact still have about an 8 percent increase in violent crime in America. You know why? That is how many more kids there are going to be. We better figure out now before this so-called baby boomlet—that's what the demographers are referring to—before this baby boomlet hits those crime-committing years.

I can think of nothing—nothing—that the police can do, nothing that we can do, that can solve the problem alone without providing safe havens and alternatives for these children. Boys and Girls Clubs are a proven—a proven—safe haven. A proven safe haven.

So, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to adopt this legislation. I hope this bill is a sign that we will continue to work together to deal with those prevention efforts that work. Another thing all our moms said to us, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." "An ounce of prevention." This is 2,500 ounces of prevention that will prevent tens of thousands of pounds of crime. This is a big deal.

I thank my colleague for his support and allowing me to participate in this effort.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. I thank my colleague for his kind remarks.

I think he has summed it up very, very well. So I will not repeat what he has said. I agree with him. I have to say this is one of the best programs for youth that we could do. It is the right thing to do, and I urge all our colleagues to support it.

Mr. LEAHY. Like my colleagues, I too support the expansion of Boys and Girls Clubs. I would like to ask the author of this legislation, its principal sponsor and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, whether I am correct that this bill should serve to expand the availability of Boys and Girls Clubs in rural areas?

Mr. HATCH. That is correct. The bill will change the law to permit Boys and Girls Clubs to be expanded where needed, and certainly a club in a rural area could be needed, and make a significant difference to the young people in that area.

Mr. LEAHY. Do we intend for the funds to be used to expand clubs in communities under 50,000 in population?

Mr. HATCH. Absolutely. The original language passed last year expressly included rural areas, but this amendment is intended to make our intent clearer that not only can rural areas as well as urban qualify as distressed areas, but also that clubs ought be expanded into rural areas and smaller communities where needed and, in particular, into rural areas such as those in my friend's State of Vermont, my State of Utah, and other States with few Boys and Girls Clubs. I agree with the Senator that our call for 1,000 new clubs by the year 2001 should include attention to expanding opportunities for young people in our rural areas and smaller communities.

Mr. LEAHY. So the author of the bill intends for there to be increased expansion into rural activities by the Boys and Girls Clubs even beyond the almost 20 percent expended in the first year in rural areas?

Mr. HATCH. Absolutely. I am as concerned about the threat of drugs and gangs coming into our rural communities as is the Senator from Vermont, and I believe strongly that the Boys and Girls Clubs we seek to establish are a big part of the answer to these threats.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator for clarifying this point. With that clarification, I am prepared to support this bill.

I join in supporting S. 476 to provide authority to expand Boys and Girls Clubs across the country, including both urban and rural areas. When we passed similar legislation last year, we did it as part of a legislative package that included the National Information Infrastructure Protection Act that Senator KYL and I authored and that I

helped push through during the closing days of the last Congress.

Most important to me, the revised language should serve to expand the availability of Boys and Girls Clubs in rural areas. The original language was more restrictive, requiring the grants to be used only for the purpose of establishing Boys and Girls Clubs in public housing projects and other distressed areas. I have worked with the Boys and Girls and know that they understand that rural areas as well as urban can qualify as distressed areas.

Nonetheless, the new language is more expansive and will give girls and boys in rural areas greater opportunities to share in Boys and Girls Clubs and their programs. The revised statute will authorize grants for establishing and extending facilities where needed. Particular emphasis continues to be given to housing projects, where Boys and Girls Clubs have proven effective in preventing youth crime, and to distressed areas, rural or urban. But the where needed language should help make expansion into rural areas a greater priority.

Likewise, the removal of the language concerning contracts with HUD should streamline the expansion process and help make clear that such expansions are not limited to public housing projects.

The changes made to that program by this bill also permit up to five percent of the grant funds to be used to establish a role model speakers' program. Anyone who has seen the Boys and Girls Clubs of America commercial with Denzel Washington and his coach will know the kinds of outstanding role models that we are seeking to promote to encourage and motivate young people to be involved, productive citizens.

I have seen the outstanding results at the Boys and Girls Club in Burlington, VT, under the direction of Bob Robinson. The role models they provide include the outstanding instructors and volunteers who work in the club's many programs. I have also witnessed the outstanding results of the Kids 'N Kops Program at the University of Vermont with the cooperation of local law enforcement.

Expansions are proceeding and over 200 new clubs serving 180,000 youth were opened as a result of last year's legislation. I know that the Burlington Boys and Girls club received \$100,000 to help enhance that Club's outreach efforts. I was glad to receive a letter from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America indicating that they are in the planning stages for the development of a new club in Rutland and researching the feasibility of a club in Essex Junction, as well. I would hope that with the continuation of this initiative they will look for opportunities to serve young people in St. Albans, Brattleboro, St. Johnsbury, Montpelier, and other Vermont locations, as well. I would be delighted for a sizeable portion of the 1 million additional young people who we hope will be

served by the end of this century to come from the 145,000 young people in Vermont and those in other rural areas.

In supporting this bill, I encourage the Boys and Girls Clubs as one example of a successful youth-oriented program that can help make a difference in young people's lives and prevent crime and delinquency. I also support the work of others who are effective with young people, including our outstanding 4-H programs. In working for the passage of this measure I have received assurances that other members will join with me in supporting these other fine programs, as well.

It is nice to see Republican Members support juvenile crime prevention programs. Only a short time ago Republicans tried to stop passage of the President's 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act and contended that crime prevention programs were "pork" or a waste of funds.

In the juvenile crime bill I sponsored this year, S. 15, we include a number of initiatives to prevent juvenile crime and youth drug abuse. I hope that we can expect bipartisan support for those juvenile crime prevention provisions as we move forward in this Congress so that we can enact a comprehensive approach to the problem of youth crime. This measure should not become an excuse for anyone not to join with us to bolster comprehensive drug education and prevention for all elementary and high school students. We should proceed to help create after school safe havens where children are protected from drugs, gangs, and crime with activities including drug prevention education, academic tutoring, mentoring, and abstinence training. This bill is a step but should not be the end of our efforts to support programs that help prevent juvenile delinquency, crime, and drug abuse.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of a letter I just received from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA,
Rockville, MD, May 8, 1997.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: Last week when the Judiciary Committee discussed S. 476 I heard your concerns, and if possible, I would like to clarify what we are trying to do with this Bill and what we have done with previous appropriations.

Our goal within the state of Vermont is to strengthen the youth development services currently being provided. In addition, we are working to increase both the number of local Boys & Girls Club facilities and youth being served throughout the state.

Just this past year, we passed \$100,000 through to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Burlington, VT, to enhance the Club's outreach efforts. Today, we are in the planning stages for the development of a Boys & Girls Club in Rutland, VT, and are researching the feasibility of a Club in Essex Junction, VT. I

give you every assurance that these efforts will remain a priority.

Nationally, with Boys & Girls Clubs of America's 1996 appropriation, we opened 208 Boys & Girls Clubs and served 180,000 new boys and girls. All told, Boys & Girls Clubs now serve some 2.6 million young people throughout America, including many in rural and semi-rural communities. Our planned growth for 1997, with the assistance of our current appropriation, will continue at this same pace.

Upon passage and successful implementation of S. 476, we plan on serving 1,000,000 new boys and girls throughout the United States. Many of the children in Vermont who are not currently being served—will be.

Senator Leahy, you have been a friend to Boys & Girls Clubs and to many youth organizations over the years. We hope that you can now help us pass S. 476 and help us reach 1,000,000 new boys and girls.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you on this and other issues that help America's children and families.

Sincerely,

ROBBIE CALLAWAY,
Senior Vice President.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today I rise in strong support of S. 476, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Act of 1997, which I have cosponsored. This important legislation will give seed money to build 1,000 additional Boys and Girls Clubs across America, with special emphasis on establishing clubs in public housing projects and distressed areas.

In Alaska, and across the Nation, kids are reaping the benefits of Boys and Girls Clubs. They are safe places where kids can go after school to learn and have fun. Boys and Girls Clubs are places where they find role models, and where they can explore their own talents and skills. In 1995 there were 8,000 Alaskans participating in Boys and Girls Clubs; today more than 14,000 young Alaskans are Boys and Girls Club members. In fact many of my staff are alumni of these clubs in Alaska.

This seed money will insure that more than 1 million more young Americans will have a safe place to grow and learn by the year 2000. This is a model program supplying the construction cost for the clubs and giving youths in depressed communities a chance to succeed. Studies by Columbia University have shown that in areas of public housing where there are Boys and Girls Clubs juvenile crime has dropped 13 percent.

I thank Senator HATCH and the other cosponsors of this important legislation for their hard work and dedication. I look forward to seeing more Boys and Girls Clubs across our great Nation.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am prepared to yield back the remainder of my time.

Would the Senator from Delaware yield back the remainder of his time?

Mr. BIDEN. I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. HATCH. I yield back the remainder of my time as well as Senator LEAHY's time. I am authorized to say,

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 476

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. 2,500 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS BEFORE 2000.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(a) of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to provide adequate resources in the form of seed money for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to establish 1,000 additional local clubs where needed, with particular emphasis placed on establishing clubs in public housing projects and distressed areas, and to ensure that there are a total of not less than 2,500 boys and girls Clubs of America facilities in operation not later than December 31, 1999.”

(b) ACCELERATED GRANTS.—Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each of the fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the Department of Justice shall make a grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for the purpose of establishing and extending Boys and Girls Clubs facilities where needed, with particular emphasis placed on establishing clubs in and extending services to public housing projects and distressed areas.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—The Attorney General shall accept an application for a grant under this subsection if submitted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and approve or deny the grant not later than 90 days after the date on which the application is submitted, if the application—

“(A) includes a long-term strategy to establish 1,000 additional Boys and Girls Clubs and detailed summary of those areas in which new facilities will be established, or in which existing facilities will be expanded to serve additional youths, during the next fiscal year;

“(B) includes a plan to ensure that there are a total of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities in operation before January 1, 2000;

“(C) certifies that there will be appropriate coordination with those communities where clubs will be located; and

“(D) explains the manner in which new facilities will operate without additional, direct Federal financial assistance to the Boys and Girls Clubs once assistance under this subsection is discontinued.”

(c) ROSE MODEL GRANTS.—Section 401 of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 13751 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) ROLE MODEL GRANTS.—Of amounts made available under subsection (e) for any fiscal year—

“(1) not more than 5 percent may be used to provide a grant to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America for administrative, travel, and other costs associated with a national role-model speaking tour program; and

“(2) no amount may be used to compensate speakers other than to reimburse speakers for reasonable travel and accommodation costs associated with the program described in paragraph (1).”

Mr. HATCH. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BIDEN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each, except for the Senator from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM.

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

ETHANOL TAX POLICY; PRESENT AND FUTURE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to clarify a statement I made last week with respect to the upcoming battle to protect and extend the ethanol tax incentives.

I want to make clear that I do not think there is any room to compromise on the existing tax incentives prior to the year 2000. Many ethanol plants have made investments based on the expectation that those incentives will be available in their current form until 2000. Congress should not change those incentives or jeopardize in any way those existing plant investments.

Having said that, I appreciate that some will argue that the ethanol incentives should be allowed to expire in 2000. My response to them is that the Nation will continue to benefit in some very significant ways in the 21st century from new entrants into the industry and expanded use of clean burning ethanol and its ether. By encouraging billions of dollars of investment in commercial scale plants, the tax credits have promoted major technology advances and many more improvements are on the brink of commercialization. These benefits justify some level of continuing support. On the other hand, to my fellow industry supporters, I suggest that we need to recognize that the tax incentives are nearly 20 years old and should be reviewed for possible constructive changes.

In extending the incentives beyond 2000, we should be willing to take a critical look at the incentives to determine if they should be modified to better achieve the objectives of the ethanol industry and the country. During this debate, my first priority will be to ensure the continued growth and development of small ethanol plants that have been responsible for diversification of the ethanol industry and rural economic development. Those plants represent the future for economic growth in rural America and will help keep the benefits of value-added agricultural processing in the rural communities from which those products originate.

Ethanol and its ether, ETBE, have never played as large a role as I believe they can and should play in cleaning up America's air or reducing its dependence on foreign energy through the reformulated gasoline program. We