

in promoting reliable electricity supplies through FERC and by ensuring wholesale markets are transparent and functioning efficiently.

A second immediate issue that needs attention is the LIHEAP program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. High energy prices this past winter have left many working families unable to pay their heating bills and are having their utility service cutoff. The Senate has acted to increase the authorization for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program but the President's support and action is needed if we are going to put additional funds in this program. I hope it will be addressed by the Vice President's task force. Summer cooling bills will be arriving soon and the states have no funds left to help with those costs either.

Fuel specifications is another issue. The President could act immediately to help sort out the welter of gasoline specifications around the country that has balkanized the fuel market and rendered regions highly vulnerable to shortages of gasoline if a piece of the local energy infrastructure goes down. We saw gasoline price spikes in the Midwest and West Coast last summer because of this problem, and we will likely have similar problems again this summer.

If the Vice President's answer on these specific, pressing needs is that nothing much can be done about these problems this year, and that folks who are unfortunate enough to live in California, or folks who live in a region that is experiencing a gasoline price spike due to lack of availability of the right blend of gasoline, or working class families who cannot pay the high electricity bills for air conditioning, will just have to do without while we are working on some long-term energy fix, then we don't have a truly comprehensive and balanced energy strategy.

In conclusion, there has been a lot of interaction within the administration, perhaps, on this issue, but there has not been interaction between the administration and the Congress, at least that I am aware of, on what the Vice President is getting ready to recommend. By contrast, the Senate is now engaged in discussing an education bill where we did have very intense bipartisan discussions with the administration and among ourselves. Energy, in my view, is important in this country, just as education is important. There are real opportunities for bipartisan progress on the issue of energy as well as in the area of education.

I hope the administration sees this and puts away some of the hot button issues that are not likely to command support in the Senate, such as the opening of ANWR. They should put those away in favor of proposals that will command broad bipartisan support.

In the end, that may be the strongest indication of whether the administra-

tion wants to pursue a consensus bipartisan energy policy which will serve the interests of the country.

COMMEMORATION OF TAX FREEDOM DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to apprise the Senate of a very distressing development. Today marks Tax Freedom Day, the day when Americans will finally have earned enough money to pay off their tax bills for the year.

This year's Tax Freedom Day marks the longest period Americans have ever had to work to pay their taxes. It is astounding that every hour worked since the beginning of this year will go solely to pay America's tax bills.

The average American is shouldering a heavier tax burden than ever before. This year, Americans will work longer to pay for Government than they will to pay for food, clothing and shelter combined.

Congress has got to put a stop to this. I am pleased to report that Senator BAUCUS and I, and the other members of the Senate Finance Committee, are right now working on a tax cut bill that will provide a real reduction in income taxes. With \$1.35 trillion, we can now produce income tax cuts large enough that working Americans will actually see a difference in their paychecks.

So what has caused the lengthiest Tax Freedom Day in our Nation's history? It was the Federal individual income tax increases enacted in 1993. And here is the proof.

The Tax Foundation is the non-partisan, nonprofit policy group that calculated today's Tax Freedom Day. The Tax Foundation's analysis shows that the Federal tax burden grew by 14 days' pay between 1992 and 2001. That means that because of the 1993 tax increases, Americans now have to work an additional 2 weeks just to meet their Federal tax burden. That is equal to some Americans' vacation pay.

In stark contrast, the Tax Foundation says State and local tax burdens remained virtually unchanged during this period. So the culprit in creating the longest Tax Freedom Day in history is the Federal Government.

The biggest source of Federal revenue is the individual income tax. Over the past decade Federal tax collection levels for payroll taxes, corporate taxes, and all other taxes have been relatively stable. Collections of individual income taxes, however, have soared.

In 1992, tax collections from individual income taxes were 7.7 percent of our gross domestic product. That percentage has risen steadily each year, and as of the year 2000, it was an astounding 10.2 percent of GDP. Individual income taxes now take up the largest share of GDP in history. Even during World War II, collections from individuals were 9.4 percent of GDP, nearly a full percentage point below the current level.

The source of the current and projected tax surpluses is from the huge runups in individual tax collections. And that has given us the lengthiest Tax Freedom Day in our Nation's history.

Yesterday, the members of the Finance Committee met informally to discuss what everyone thinks should be in the tax cut package. I think there was a nearly unanimous agreement that individual income tax rates are simply too high.

Senator BAUCUS and I are working hard to put together a bipartisan tax cut package. I ask Members of the Senate and the American public to support our efforts. Our quest for real tax rate reduction is sincere and urgent. With an uncertain economy and excessive Federal tax collections, America needs action and it needs it now. American taxpayers expect us to deliver tax relief and we must not fail them.

As I stand here today, I pledge to you that as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I will do everything in my power to ensure that next year's Tax Freedom Day will not mark the longest period Americans have to work to pay their taxes. And I am confident that my Democratic colleagues will join us in supporting this goal.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION HOT LINE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Michigan State Police recently introduced a 24-hour school violence prevention hot line to allow students, parents, teachers and others, to report school violence or suspicious criminal conduct to the State Police. The hot line, 800-815 TIPS, offers young people and others in Michigan a way to reach out to law enforcement anonymously, if desired, and in a non-confrontational environment.

In the past month, students and citizens from across the state have given the State Police approximately 60 tips, including tips about bullying, harassment, sexual assault, as well as tips about knives and guns in school. The State Police then passed these tips on to the appropriate local law enforcement agency for investigation. Michigan is the thirteenth state to implement such a hotline and we hope it will help keep our schools safer for students and teachers.

We also hope that other preventative measures will be taken to keep our schools safer, such as legislative initiatives to keep firearms out of the hands of juveniles and prohibited persons. Together, we can work toward preventing the disturbing number of violent acts in school that we have seen far too much of in the last few years.

U.S.-JORDAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today in the Senate to offer a way out of the stalemate we have on trade policy.

The trade agenda facing our nation is a long and important one: Approval of the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement and the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement; renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preferences Act; a fully revised and improved Trade Adjustment Assistance program; completion of negotiations on bilateral free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore; active negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

But, despite a strong feeling in the Congress that we need to continue the aggressive pursuit of trade liberalization and market opening around the world, we have made no progress at all this year. There are several hold-ups.

First, we need to determine how to deal with the issues of trade-related environmental standards and internationally recognized core labor principles in trade agreements. Second, we need to reach agreement on America's trade priorities and our trade negotiating objectives. And, third, we have to determine how we will deal with the numerous elements of the trade agenda.

The key to breaking loose this logjam and allowing us to start to build a consensus on trade lies with the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement. This was negotiated during the Clinton Administration, although it was completed too late to secure Congressional action last year. This agreement has wide support in the Congress, in the Administration, and throughout the country. I am confident that, once formally endorsed by the Administration, it will sail through easily. Yet the delay in approval continues because it has been linked to the rest of the trade agenda and the unresolved issues I mentioned a moment ago.

We need to delink Jordan from the rest of our trade agenda. It is a good, solid trade agreement. Jordan is a key partner of the United States in the search for peace in the Middle East. This agreement will strengthen our relationship with Jordan, demonstrate how important we considered King Hussein, and now consider King Abdullah, in the peace process, and complete the set of free trade agreements that already apply to Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Majority Leader LOTT summarized this eloquently when he wrote to President Bush:

Jordan has been a reliable partner of the United States and has played an important role in America's efforts to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East. The United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement is an important and timely symbol of this critical relationship.

This agreement serves America's vital national interest.

The Jordan FTA contains provisions in which both our countries agree not to relax environmental or labor standards in order to enhance competitiveness. For the first time, these provisions are in the main body of the agree-

ment. Although there has been some controversy about that, I think the issue has been put to rest, especially after King Abdullah explained to us during his recent visit about how difficult it would be to open up the text of the agreement.

The controversy over the Jordan FTA now centers around one phrase: If there is no resolution at the end of the dispute settlement process, "the affected Party shall be entitled to take any appropriate and commensurate measure." This includes trade sanctions, and therein lies the problem. Many Democrats welcome this because it puts enforcement of trade-related labor and environmental commitments on a par with other trade commitments. Many Republicans object because they believe trade sanctions should not be used in the case of labor or environmental disputes.

So, let me make my proposal.

The "appropriate and commensurate" phrase is flexible enough to encompass a variety of measures, including trade sanctions, fines, cuts in aid programs, and a variety of other options. Let's move ahead with the Jordan FTA as negotiated. We Democrats will note that the Jordan FTA is a breakthrough in how it addresses labor and environment. We will also note that "appropriate and commensurate measure" includes trade sanctions, without requiring them. After all, in our trade negotiations throughout the world, sanctions, of any kind, are the very last resort, and we work hard to avoid their imposition. And remember that trade sanctions in the context of the Jordan FTA simply means removing some of the concessions we make in the agreement itself.

Across the aisle, Republicans can also correctly note that "appropriate and commensurate measure" does not require trade sanctions in the case of a dispute over trade-related labor or environmental issues. The President will decide what is an "appropriate and commensurate measure."

In other words, we will agree to take enforcement measures appropriate to the circumstances. This is not the best outcome, but it is a way to get past the current paralysis in trade policy. It would allow us to move forward on an agreement of strategic importance to the United States. It would demonstrate flexible and creative thinking on both sides. It would move us to work toward a compromise that can garner broad bipartisan support.

And, let's be honest with ourselves. Given the very small volume of trade with Jordan, the very large strategic significance of our relationship with Jordan, and the importance Jordanians place on this free trade agreement, it is highly unlikely that any Administration, Democrat or Republican, present or future, will be forced to impose trade sanctions on Jordan. Disputes are likely to be settled amicably, as they have been with Israel which has a similar free trade agreement with the United States.

Several weeks ago, I introduced legislation to implement the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement. The bill is a simple one. It merely gives the President authority to reduce tariffs with Jordan, outlines rules-of-origin requirements, deals with safeguards provisions, and eases non-immigrant visa requirements for Jordanian business people. It does not even mention "appropriate and commensurate measures." U.S. law would not be changed at all by this phrase.

Let's pass this bill. Let's create the U.S.-Jordan free trade area. And let's get on with the business of working together to develop a consensus on how we move forward on a lengthy and important national trade agenda.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

Today, I would like to detail a heinous crime that occurred August 24, 2000 in Allentown, PA. A 24-year-old fatally shot a 15-year-old youth attending a party in his home after the teen touched him on the arm and other partygoers suggested the teen was gay. According to the Allentown Morning Call, a witness said that the alleged perpetrator, Michael Gambler, retrieved a shotgun and shot Kevin Kleppinger in the forehead. Friends say that Kleppinger was not gay and had been rubbing the perpetrator's arm because he thought he had accidentally spit on it. Other teens in the apartment began teasing the victim that he might be gay before the perpetrator shot him.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CONGRATULATING POLAND ON THE 210TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH CONSTITUTION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today marks the 210th anniversary of the Polish Third of May Constitution, which was the first democratic constitution in Europe and the second one in world's history after the American Constitution was ratified in 1788. On May 3, 1791 the Polish Parliament followed the example of the United States and adopted its own written and modern supreme law of the land.

The Constitution signed by the Polish King and the Lithuanian Grand Duke was originally known as the Bill