

Regular gasoline average \$1.54 a gallon across the country Monday, down from \$1.71 in the late May and 12 cents below year ago levels, according to the Energy Department. Larry Goldstein, president of P \* \* \* Energy Group, an industry research organization, said that consumption instead of rising the expected 1% to 1.5% this summer is now expected to fall 2%. Gasoline inventories, bolstered by surging imports are near a five-year high.

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[From the Reno Gazette Journal, July 31, 2001]

#### TEAMSTERS BACK OIL EXPLORATION IN ALASKA WILDERNESS

WASHINGTON.—The Teamsters will start airing radio ads this week in favor of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The campaign aligns the union with the Bush administration and sets it apart from much of organized labor.

The 60-second spots will air on radio stations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia this week as the House prepares to vote on the issue and other energy proposals.

The ads will cost at least \$20,000, said Teamsters spokesman Rob Black.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia were selected because of the impact energy exploration could have on their economies, union officials said. More than 200 businesses in those states are involved in Alaskan petroleum exploration.

The ads say that opening the refuge could mean 75,000 new jobs—"Good jobs, union jobs"—with 40,000 of those in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Environmentalists get slammed for being "so intolerant and excessive" while jobs are being lost and families are hurting.

"Part of the problem? Not understanding that protecting the environment and developing new sources of energy go hand in hand," the ads say. Listeners are urged to call their representatives.

Vice President Dick Cheney met with the Teamsters and some of the more conservative construction and steel unions earlier this summer, when the Bush administration was trying to build support for its energy plan by touting job creation.

The Teamsters union, which supported former Vice President Al Gore in last year's election but sometimes tilts Republican, has been a thorn in the Bush administration's side on another issue—whether to open the border to Mexican trucks.

The union has been lobbying against President Bush's plan to allow the trucks on America's roads on Jan. 1, in keeping with the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The Senate is nearing a vote on the issue, and Democratic leaders predict passage of tougher safety standards for Mexican trucks.

Bush prefers giving the trucks access to U.S. roads and then auditing Mexican trucking companies during the next 18 months.

The Teamsters union has been airing \$50,000 worth of radio ads, opposing Bush's plan, in the Washington area.

#### NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, each year the American Immigration Law Foundation and the American Immigration Lawyers Association sponsor a national writing contest on immigration. Thousands of fifth grade students across the country participate in the competition, answering the question, "Why I'm Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

In fact, "A Nation of Immigrants" was the title of a book that President Kennedy wrote in 1958, when he was a Senator. In this book, and throughout his life, he honored America's heritage and history of immigration as a principal source of the Nation's progress and achievements.

I had the privilege of serving as one of the judges for this year's contest, and was very impressed by the young writers. In their essays, they showed great pride in the Nation's diversity and its immigrant heritage, and many students told the story of their own family's immigration.

The winner of this year's contest is Crystal D. Armstead, a fifth grader from Philadelphia. In her essay, she reminds us of America's immigrant foundation and the importance of honoring our diversity. She describes how immigration has affected her family and how it enriches her life today. Other students honored for their creative essays were Robert Banovic of Pittsburgh, PA, Megan Imrie of Orland Park, IL, Carter Jones of Huntington Beach, CA, and Amanda Tabata of Honolulu, HI.

I believe that these award-winning essays in the "Celebrate America" contest will be of interest to all of us in the Senate, and I ask unanimous consent they be printed in the RECORD.

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

GRAND PRIZE WINNER, CRYSTAL D. ARMSTEAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA

#### REASONS WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS:

The United States has the largest immigration population in the world. There are two types of immigrants today. Those who are running from something, and those who are running to something. In the early 1600's there was a third reason. Africans were brought to America against their will as slaves. Africans had no choice but to become part of American culture. Today, African Americans have freedom to leave, but are so much a part of the American society that we remain a part of this country. I'm part of the American melting pot.

My school is an example of America in 2001. There are at least thirty countries represented in my school.

Some of the children in my school don't speak English, or speak very little English. In the classroom, they sometimes have a translator. In the lunchroom and in the school yard, language is not a problem. We play tag, jump rope, and run around the school yard. We need no translators. It is a privilege to go to school with so many cultures.

In the fourth grade, everyone researched their culture and country of origin. My ancestors came from Africa. They weren't treated well, but today I'm able to attend one of the best schools in Philadelphia. I was proud when my grandmother shared stories from Africa.

We finished the project with an international lunch. We enjoyed dishes and wore clothes from our country of origin.

FINALIST, ROBERT BANOVIC, PITTSBURGH, PA  
MY ROAD TO AMERICA

When the war started, I was four years old. I lived with my mom, dad, grandmother, and

grandfather. One day my dad went to the war. My mom said that he would come back soon but he never did.

As we sat down to eat one day, the shaking and screaming began. There was dust all over. They threw a grenade in my house and killed my grandfather who I loved a lot. The door and bricks fell on me. Everywhere around me were dead people—men, women, and children. The war didn't choose.

My uncle took my mom, grandmother, and me to another city. From there we moved on again but my mom didn't come because she was trapped in the city we came from. My grandmother died three months later and I was left with a woman I didn't even know. I didn't see my mom for six months. When she came, the war was still going on but I didn't care, at least I had my mom. My dad was gone, my grandfather and grandmother, too—all of them died in one year.

When my mom and I came to the United States, it was hard and we cried a lot. We didn't have any friends and we didn't know how to speak English. But we have a lot more here than we did in Bosnia. Most of all we have freedom. Now I'm one happy kid who is glad we are here!

FINALIST, MEGAN IMRIE, ORLAND PARK, IL  
LIBERIO

This is a true story. It is to show why I am glad America is a nation of immigrants.

My great-grandfather was an immigrant from Italy. In the 1930s people did not get paid much and had to work very long hours. His name was Liberio. When people became tired with the way their bosses treated them, they picketed for unions. Liberio and his co-workers were among these workers. Liberio was their leader. One day during a picket, the police arrested him and his co-workers. When it was Liberio's turn to be questioned, the police asked why they were picketing, since this is America. Then Liberio said: "I know all about America. My name is Liberio and it means liberty. I have three sons. My first son is named Salvatore, which means salvation. America gives salvation to people who are poor, hungry, persecuted or even in danger. My next son's name is Victory, which means victory. Victory stands for America because we are victorious over depression and hardships and other countries that are against our way of life. My last son's name is Frank which means freedom. Freedom is America. Its people can believe, can live and dream however they choose. Do not tell me I do not know what America is." When the police heard this, they let my great-grandfather and his companions go. I feel that this is very important because it made many understand what America is.

FINALIST, CARTER JONES, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

#### AMERICA AS A QUILT

I like to think of America As a huge quilt, Each person acting as A small thread, Each person's character Describes the color Of each thread. Each person's appearance Determines the texture Of each thread. Each family acts as A group of threads. Each family's love For each other Determines how the Threads are placed. When a marriage occurs Two more threads Are woven together. When all the families Are woven together, It makes a very Unique fabric.

As the fabric grows, It forms quilt pieces That form a Complete quilt. Each family has its Own unique pattern That determines the Way the quilt Patches will look. If you were To take other Country's quilts and Compare them to The United States' Quilt, you would Get a very different Product because Of different foods And different Traditions of each Country in the world. The United States

Quilt would have A very different Texture and color Than any other Country in the world. All the different Characteristics and skin Colors of people Around the world Make our quilt Beautiful.

If you were to Look at the United States' Quilt, really Study it, you Would find Characteristics Of all the other Countries on it.

People have Immigrated here From other countries, And because of that, Each quilt patch Is different from The next quilt patch. Immigrants from Countries other than The United States Bring different foods And traditions, which Change the colors and Textures of the United States' beautiful And unique quilt.

FINALIST, AMANDA TABATA, HONOLULU, HI

I'm proud to live in a place with many immigrants.

Many people get to share customs, traditions, history, language, and many more things.

Many people do not know how lucky they are to live in a place with many immigrants.

I can learn many things about a culture from one another.

Give thanks because you live in a wonderful diverse, and free country.

Really take the time to experience, and learn about all of the cultures, history, tradition, religions and many more things.

Always be proud of who you are, what culture you are, and where you come from.

Nurture, and create an appreciation for all cultures.

Together we stand in a community of different cultures, so we are strong.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. 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.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 4, 1991 in Houston, TX. Eight to 10 high school and college-aged males beat Paul Broussard, 27, and two of his companions with two-by-fours, some with nails in them. Broussard died seven hours later. Police labeled the homicide a "gay bashing."

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.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2002 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I am pleased that the Senate was able to pass a Transportation Appropriations bill that fully funds the airport and highway trust funds and provides funds for high-speed rail research and development, among other things. Ensuring that our Nation's transportation infrastructure receives adequate funding for improvement and maintenance is a critical responsibility of Congress. Due in large part to TEA-21, Congress has been able to provide these necessary funds on a consistent basis.

At the same time, I continue to be concerned about unauthorized spending that is included in the accompanying report. While I appreciate the desire to respond to local requests and concerns, nevertheless Congress must work harder to rein itself in when it comes to this type of spending. We all know that this is not an easy task. While I disagree with the President's tax cut which has reduced the availability of funds for necessary programs, nevertheless I am encouraged by the Administration's recent announcement that it wants to work with Congress to cut back unauthorized spending in appropriations bills.

Adequate funding for our entire transportation infrastructure is one of my highest budget priorities. I am pleased that this bill accomplishes that goal.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, August 1, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,706,162,161,657.50, five trillion, seven hundred six billion, one hundred sixty-two million, one hundred sixty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents.

One year ago, August 1, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,652,485,270,404.28, five trillion, six hundred fifty-two billion, four hundred eighty-five million, two hundred seventy thousand, four hundred four dollars and twenty-eight cents.

Five years ago, August 1, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,183,636,383,503.29, five trillion, one hundred eighty-three billion, six hundred thirty-six million, three hundred eighty-three thousand, five hundred three dollars and twenty-nine cents.

Ten years ago, August 1, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,577,200,000,000, three trillion, five hundred seventy-seven billion, two hundred million.

Fifteen years ago, August 1, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,079,858,000,000, two trillion, seventy-nine billion, eight hundred fifty-eight million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion, \$3,626,304,161,657.50, three trillion, six hundred twenty-six billion, three hundred four million, one hundred sixty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-seven dollars and fifty cents during the past 15 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF SUNNYSIDE AND TECUMSEH MIDDLE SCHOOLS OF LAFAYETTE, IN

• Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I rise to commend the students of Sunnyside and Tecumseh Middle Schools of Lafayette, IN, for their efforts to honor the Japanese American veterans of World War II.

On June 29, 2001, I was honored to help dedicate the long-awaited National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. Located just a stone's

throw from this chamber, at the corner of New Jersey and Louisiana Avenues, the memorial is a beautiful evocation of Japanese American contributions to life of this great Nation.

Though small in numbers, Americans of Japanese ancestry have had a tremendous impact on our Nation in countless ways, in fields and factories, in boardrooms and classrooms, in State houses and court houses. Of course, when their Nation called, they answered, performing magnificently on the battlefield. Their success, achieved in the face of discrimination and cultural misunderstanding, is a testament to their values of hard work, self-sacrifice, and love of family, community, and country, values that have helped make our Nation strong and prosperous.

The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism is a fitting tribute to the "patriotism, perseverance, and posterity" of this small but vigorous minority in our country. I hope that all our colleagues, and indeed Americans everywhere, will have a chance to visit this remarkable shrine and reflect on the lesson that it teaches us, that America is great because it embraces its diversity, and that freedom and opportunity can be realized only when they are available to all.

Today I would like to share with you another tribute, one less grand, perhaps, and constructed of cloth and paper rather than steel and stone, but no less meaningful. I am referring to a remarkable work of art and remembrance, a quilt that comes from the heartland of America. Crafted by the young people in Lafayette, IN, the quilt honors the thousands of Japanese Americans who answered the call of duty during the Second World War.

Through the good offices of the Japanese American Veterans Association, the larger-than-life quilt to which I refer had its inaugural unveiling at the dedication dinner celebrating the June 29, 2001 opening of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. It captured the hearts and imaginations of all who saw it that evening, and in so doing, appropriately highlighted the memorial's primary mission, to educate Americans about the heritage of Japanese Americans and their special place in the fabric of our Nation.

I would like to commend the 8th grade students of Sunnyside and Tecumseh Middle Schools of Lafayette, IN, who joined together to create this unique work, and to thank their teacher, Ms. Leila Meyerratken, for her inspirational support for this initiative. Five hundred students, often working after school and on weekends, contributed their time, energy, and inspiration to the school project. Mrs. Meyerratken herself gave up holidays and leave to see the project through.